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20, TAVISTOCK STREET, STRAND, LONDON, W.C. 2.

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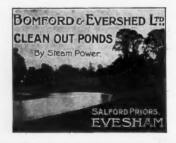
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The Offices of Country Life, Ltd., 20, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2.



THE CULTIVATION of CABBAGES"

Is the title of an interesting and instructive article by L. M. MARSHALL in this week's issue of

THE GARDEN

(Dated July 7th).

Other articles of note in this number are:

Kitchen Garden Notes." (Illus.). By Gertrude Jekyll.
The Desirability of Late Vegetables." (Illus.).
The Layering and Planting of Strawberries." (Illus.).
The Layering and Planting of Strawberries." (Illus.).
How to Prolong the Strawberry Season."
The Mountain Juniper." By A. Johnson.
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COUNTRY LIFE

Vol. XLII.-No. 1070.

SATURDAY, JULY 7th, 1917.

PRICE EIGHTPENCE, POSTAGE EXTRA.
REGISTERED AT THE G.P.O. AS A NEWSPAPER



LADY CHESHAM AND HER SON.

COUNTRY LIFE

COUNTRY LIFE & COUNTRY PURSUITS

OFFICES: 20, TAVISTOCK STREET, COVENT GARDEN, W.C.

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EDITORIAL NOTICE

The charge for Small Estate Announcements is 12s. per inch per insertion, the minimum space being half an inch, approximately 48 words, for which the charge is 6s. per insertion. All advertisements must be prepaid.

** We appeal to our readers to send their copies of recent issues of Country Life to the troops at the front. This can be done by simply handing them over the counter of any Post Office. No label, wrapper or address is needed and no postage need be paid.

The War Office notifies that all papers posted to any neutral European country will be stopped, except those sent by publishers and newsagents who have obtained special permission from the War Office. Such permission has been granted to Country Life, and subscribers who send to friends in Denmark, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Rumania, neutral Countries in America, and the Dependencies of neutral European Countries in Africa should order copies to be despatched by the Publisher from 20, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, W.C. 2.

THE CARE OF COUNTRY CHILDREN

ATURALLY the promoters of Baby Week were more solicitous about the care of town than of country children. Perhaps they were right in being so. More people live in the cities than in the villages, and numbers have the highest claim. Yet it may not be amiss to point out that there is plenty of work in Arcadia for those whose mission it is to extend help and care to those who will form the next generation. sense country children are more important than town children.

A little while ago we referred to the case of a very rich man who, when the time came to plan a career for his children, decided to send them to the country and to take all reasonable care that their lives should be lived there without want, but without riches. He argued thus: "I, their father, have had nerves torn to pieces in the process of making money in a dozen different climates and in a score of different ways. Unfortunately, their mother, too, is neurotic, and therefore the way to found a family is by giving rest to a generation. Let them sleep out a sort of vegetable life on a farm, and those who follow them will derive the benefit.' In other words, he wished to repeat in his family the period of rest and growth which a nation requires to attain its highest strength. We think of the country as a place where nerves are unknown, where children grow up to manhood in fresh air with the blue sky above them. But as a matter of fact, the real country does not always correspond to the ideal country. Everybody who lives in the fields, either in a village or in a villa, has the opportunity of raising sturdy and healthy children. Yet it is a fact that a great many of the small people there are puny, diseased, and lacking in energy.

Now, there are a few simple remedies which could be relied upon to have at least the remedied upon to have at least the remedied.

Now, there are a few simple remedies which could be relied upon to have at least an ameliorating effect. First place should be given to that Ministry of Health on which Lord Rhondda insists so strongly. Much lies in the hands of the doctor, but his function ought to be considerably changed. Instead of being brought in when disease has reached a dangerous point, his main business should be prevention. That is to say, if he is really an officer of health, he will take care that when unhealthy conditions of health, he will take care that when unhealthy conditions arise they are changed. He will be the first to recognise them as unhealthy. In that capacity he might do something towards weeding out consumption, which is still a village In a single village wherein the writer is concerned no fewer than nine young people are either at homes or going to homes with this disease at the present moment. Perhaps it may be argued that an advance has been made, since they have nursing homes at command where they are by a benevolent country lodged and cared for till they die or are cured. It serves no very good purpose making all this so easy. Judging from the number of deaths that take place, the patients are not yet taken away soon enough, but they do not resist the change for the simple reason that it costs them nothing. Now the State physician who would presumably come into existence by Lord Rhondda's plan would make it his business to ascertain the causes of this disease. He would find that in most cases the taint exists in father or mother or both. Well, it may be remembered that some years ago, when a resolute attempt was made to clear pedigree cattle of tuberculosis, the calves of tuberculous cows were segregated from the parent stock, and it was found that only a small percentage of them became tuberculous. If that could be done with calves, it should certainly not be omitted with children.

Then, unfortunately, there are village slums and village overcrowding as filthy and as unhealthy as can be found in the East End of London. The doctor ought not to rest while these disease breeding haunts continue. Drainage, too, and the management of sewage are answerable for a great deal. The sanitary condition of many villages is great deal. We do not blame any particular class for this, although the evil is most rampant among the ill-kept cottages belonging to small owners.

Diet, again, demands attention most urgently. A great many philanthropists are busily engaged in the production of pure milk, but their efforts will never help the village poor who do not get any milk at all unless it be Dutch skimmed milk in tins, a very filthy preparation which they ought never to touch. Long ago there used to be no difficulty in the matter, because the village cow was a living institution. It has ceased to be so. Even in the North, where part of the labourer's wage used to be the keep of a cow, the village cow has given place to the herd of dairy cows, the produce of which is carried direct to London or some other large town. The provision of milk for country children is something that might well engage the attention even of Lord Rhondda.

Our Frontispiece

UR frontispiece this week is a new portrait of Lady Chesham with her little son. Lady Chesham is a daughter of Mr. John Layton Mills of Tansor Court, Oundle, and her marriage to the fourth Baron Chesham took place

^{**} It is particularly requested that no permissions to photograph houses, gardens or livestock on behalf of Country Life be granted except when direct application is made from the offices of the paper. When such requests are received, the Editor would esteem the kindness of readers if they would forward the correspondence at once to him.

COUNTRY



NOTES

ever there was a need for urgency in Government action, it has been created by the bread situation at which we have arrived. Growing evidence shows the widespread nature of the evil and also its gravity.

The Government appointed a Commission, but the interim report issued is futile and unsatisfactory. For example, it is beyond all question that a recrudescence has taken place of the disease called "rope," well known and feared by the bakers of half a century ago. It will be most difficult to eradicate, and no progress is made in that direction by casting the blame on the miller and the baker, as is done in the sentence, "there are unavoidable local variations in the flour used and in the methods of bread baking."
first clause about "unavoidable local variations" that facilities for adulteration have been created, and surely that was by no means "unavoidable." In regard to baking the differences should be taken into account. If a number of substances are employed, each of which requires its own time and its own temperature, the blame should be attached to those who drew up the formula, not to the bakers who have to deal with a new and uncanny mixture. Readers who wish to understand the difficulties will do well to con the statements from a well-known miller and baker which appear at the top of the first page after these notes. They will then at the top of the first page after these notes. realise the necessity for immediate and decided action. They are certain to ask what objection there is to bread of one flour only. A loaf of wheaten bread, however coarsened it may be with bran, a loaf of barley bread, of rye bread, oatmeal cakes, surely these would be economical and they would certainly be wholesome. At all events the matter wants far more serious consideration than has yet been given it. The Ministry of Food is, of course, an emergency organisation, and the country will not be too critical of the mistakes emanating from it, provided that remedies are promptly sought and applied promptly sought and applied.

LORD RHONDDA in his new capacity as Food Controller appears to be grasping his nettle. In his first public speech of importance made at Cardiff he enrolled himself definitely as the champion of the poor consumer. He is convinced that unfair profits have raised the prices of food beyond what was fair and reasonable. At the same time, he points out that the consumer cannot hope to return at the present moment to pre-war prices. In the natural course of things war is bound to increase the cost of living, simply because it causes all the various agencies of production to become more expensive. Labour is scarce and dear, importation is attended with difficulties and added expense; while, above all, the consumption is always tending to increase. A million men enlisted as soldiers consume far more bread than they did in the days when they were civilians, and if it be considered how many millions there are to feed the world over, then a scarcity of food is seen to be inevitable.

RUSSIA has provided the surprises of the war. The people of that great continent are, as far as their psychology is concerned, the least understood of all the Allies. We remember with gratitude how in the hard days before the Battle of the Marne they with noble and careless generosity, halfarmed, ill-equipped, rushed as it were with their bare bosoms

against the sword to relieve the pressure in the West. There are times when they have inspired the gloomiest despair, and others when the hope of the world seems to have rested upon them. It would be useless to disguise the fact that since the Revolution considerable doubt has been felt as to the ability of Russia to maintain an offensive. The doubt was all the greater because of the scarcity of the authentic news which got through, and in a general way it was felt that a mighty revolution caused a dislocation that cannot be put right in a week or two. But on the top of all this comes the news of a most brilliant victory in the East, a victory involving the capture of ten thousand prisoners. According to both the German Official and the Russian Official, it was fought with bitter determination by the soldiers of Brussiloff, men who seem to have been determined to show that as a democratic army they meant to fight even more splendidly than they did as soldiers of the Czar.

NEVER since its inception has Independence Day been celebrated as it was on the Fourth of July this year. Its origin hinged upon the severance of the connection between Great Britain and her American colonies, but this year saw the two countries drawn together again in a common desire to redress wrong and vindicate right. For once the most interesting celebration took place in London, where distinguished Americans were assisted at the function by equally distinguished Englishmen like Mr. A. J. Balfour and General Robertson. It was a day to be remembered, one that hallowed the compact between the United States and this country. The English Prime Minister in his recent visit to Scotland endorsed and repeated the doctrine laid down by President Wilson that the quarrel of the world is not with the German people, but with their autocratic rulers. This may be accepted as a sign that the principles of democracy signalised by the United States are on the eve of wide enlargement, and before these great events of which we are witnesses as well as a part are concluded, the whole of that portion of the world which has been hitherto ruled by absolute monarchy promises to become part of the democratic fold.

IRISH HORSES.

Of all that hold the line in France
Or backward bear the Huns,
No braver carry sword and lance,
No stauncher haul the guns
Than these in Irish pastures fed,
Than these the limestone grew,
Who came to show when all is said
What Irish blood can do.

At home the silken fetters sag,
There's hate old friends between,
And some would hail the Empire Flag,
And some would hoist the Green.
There's bitter talk 'twixt South and North
And some still stand and sneer
While gallant men go proudly forth
To fight for all that's dear.

But keep from these all hint of shame;
By faction's strife untorn,
They proudly hold the Irish name
Above the touch of scorn;
With blaze and star their flag's unfurled,
A line of lifting white,
To show to all the doubting world
That Ireland's heart beats right.

WILL H. OGILVIE.

SUCH crop reports as have been received emphasise the need of deeper ploughing, on which we insisted last week. It is generally admitted that the average depth to which the land is ploughed is only about 4in., and below this surface is a hard pan which accounts for the shortness of the straw. If the tillage were deeper the roots would be able to go downwards and draw moisture from a much larger area. It is a reflection on British husbandry that at the present moment excellent fields of heavy land may be seen clothed with oats, wheat and barley with the straw as short as one is accustomed to find in a dry season on the sandy soils of Norfolk. This is the result of a few hot weeks in May and June acting on land which has only been stirred a few inches in depth. There is plenty of moisture underneath if a way were made by which the rootlets could avail themselves of it. Deep cultivation has justified itself in regard to all root crops and, in theory, no one denies its adaptability to grain production.

But still the agriculturist proceeds in his old way. If spoken to he raises a protest about the danger of bringing up the subsoil. But, as was pointed out, there is no need to do this; indeed, it would be the worst possible husbandry. The end would be gained if half an inch were added annually for, say, a couple of years to the depth of the furrow and the subsoil were further stirred to a depth of $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. by a subsoiling implement attached to the plough. Had this been done we should not have been confronted as we are with the danger of a shortened food supply for 1917–18.

LONDON was shocked to discover on Tuesday morning that on the previous night a great favourite had died in the person of Sir Herbert Beerbohm Tree. The catastrophe was entirely unexpected. Some little time ago he met with an accident which caused a strain to his knee, but although an operation was necessary, he was apparently getting better. In fact, he was in the very best of spirits, full of quip and jest on the day before he died. But the heart attack had come very suddenly. Sir Herbert will always occupy an honourable place in the history of the stage on account of his devotion to the art to which he had been called. No trouble was too great, no expense too lavish for him to put a play on the stage to the best possible advantage, and, fortunately, his taste in plays was excellent. To that fact we owe a continuous and unique Shakespeare revival, for there seemed nothing of Shakespeare which he did not find suitable to his manner of presentation. In life he was a pleasant and witty companion, and he will be as greatly missed in private circles as in the theatre.

WE are glad that even amid the straitened financial circumstances due to the war it has been found possible to add a few modest pensions to the Civil List. With a single exception the recipients are all women, and the majority are widows; while a few, such as Miss Hester Pater, are in a very similar position to those who are bereft of husband. Her brother, Mr. Walter Pater, devoted himself to literature without much regard to its monetary reward, and it would be to the national discredit if a sister who was now in straitened circumstances did not receive some relief. In looking over the list one is struck with the number of those women who were married to men who did great work. scientific or educational, without adequate reward. Lady Murray, for instance, is the widow of the Editor of the New English Dictionary, a monumental work of national importance. Lady Russell is the widow of Sir William Howard Russell, the famous war correspondent. One or two women have done national work on their own account. Miss Clementina Black is known for her unwearied labour for the amelioration of the condition of industrial employment. in the list is Mr. Albert Mansbridge, the founder and secretary of the Workers' Educational Association, who is now in bad health and low circumstances. The list, in fact, is one with which little or no fault can be found.

MR. JOHN GALSWORTHY will receive the welcome he deserves into that band of land reformers who forswear mere politics and are striving to bring about practical improvements in cultivation. He is arranging a rather large programme, which he describes in the current number of the Observer, and possibly he may not understand all the practical difficulties in the way of its realisation. But at any rate he is keeping the ball rolling. It would be a very splendid achievement if during war-time we could add eight million acres to the area under the plough. Three million acres was the figure named for the present year, and a doubtful two is the best hope of those who are in a position to know. But, all the same, increased productivity is a necessary part of our policy. The multiplication of smallholders also is desirable, though it will never take place or be established on enduring foundations unless pains are taken at the same time to intensify cultivation. The work on a small holding in ordinary times is out of all proportion to its rewards and there are very few men who will labour and sweat from early dawn till dusk for a matter of one pound a week, and that would be a good recompense for the average holding tilled as it is to-day. But our people have not yet learned to make the greatest possible gain out of the land. Therefore if we are to make this stride forward, the beginning must be to teach men how to increase the produce.

ON another question Mr. Galsworthy talks with airy assurance. The reference is to tithe. Our readers are well aware that this journal has for many years advocated great changes. The tithe is wrong in its incidence. It was laid

not on the farm but on the field in 1837, when payment by kind was commuted to payment by money. Originally it offered a fairly just though rough and ready method of making all the community contribute to the maintenance of the Church, because all wealth was drawn directly or indirectly from the land. Nowadays the merchant prince escapes, although the maintenance of the Church is as much his business as anybody else's. At the same time, Mr. Galsworthy's plan of getting rid of it is beset with difficulties. The original value of the tithe was £100 per cent. This in the prosperous seventies increased to £107 per cent.; then it gradually began to fall in accordance with the septennial average, entailing much suffering to those who depended upon it for their income. At one time a nominal £100 was only worth £60. In pre-war days if the advice of Mr. Prothero had been followed the tithe would have been got rid of, but there would have been a great deal of grumbling on the part of the present owners. These in very few cases indeed are clergymen. Tithe had been trafficked about from one person to another until one finds it in the hands of the oddest owners. We can well imagine the agitation among them if it were proposed to buy up the tithe on any other basis except the price which is governed by the septennial average of corn prices.

LET us pity the poor birds in St. James's Park! They used to be petted and pampered till they were plump and fearless by the little boys and girls who saved a part of their lunch that they might feed them with crumbs. But a stern Food Department have given warning that this is a crime. It renders "the person or persons offending liable to imprisonment for six months, with or without hard labour, or a fine not exceeding £100." But should we really pity the birds? Considering the amount of indigestion, nettlerash, rheumatism and other ills that have been incurred by eating war bread, may they not count themselves happy to escape it? As to the Food Ministry, might it not be suggested that they would be very much more suitably employed in purifying their bread than in this trivial interference between the young people and the little wild things of which they make friends?

SYRINGA.

Syringa softly sways, Languorous with perfume; Her slender archèd sprays Ivory-pale with bloom.

Caught in her light embrace A single dewy rose, As through a veil of lace, Alternate pales and glows.

Syringa, bridal-sweet,
Milk and honey of June,
Here in your green retreat
Present and Past commune!

FAITH HEARN.

HOW very interesting it is to hear about the first flower show of the Ruhleben Horticultural Society! The prisoners seem to have been delighted with it. Gardening has been a solace and a relief during the course of their confinement, and the Society is unwearied in discovering new distractions. Their latest idea is to hold a competition for the best Barrack Garden of plants raised from seed in conjunction with a Summer Flower Show and Competition of various classes, and an Exhibition of Vegetables grown in their vegetable garden. Altogether, we have a very interesting picture of horticultural activity within a German internment camp.

WE very much regret that it has again become necessary to add to the price of Country Life. But the cost of paper and other expenses are going up so enormously that no other course is open. Indeed, some of our contemporaries have felt obliged to raise the price of their sixpenny journals to one shilling, while we are content to add a modest penny to the charge for Country Life, making twopence added to the original price of sixpence. Needless to say, the necessity arises entirely out of exigencies of war. There is a scarcity of paper, in itself sufficient to account for a greater burden falling upon our shoulders, and the ever pressing question of securing tonnage becomes more difficult every day. In taking this step we feel sure of enlisting the sympathies of our readers, most of whom understand the circumstances as well as we do ourselves.

LOSSES AND MALADIES DUE TO BAD BREAD

N Monday morning there was ushered into the Editorial room a gentleman whose name I recognised from his card to be one of those concerned in a very large way with providing the staff of life for the population of London. One looked at him askance, for one never can tell what a visitor in the early morning may be up to! His first words were: "I have come to ask who wrote that article on bread in last week's number of Country Life"? Whereupon followed the trembling confession that the culprit stood before him. "I congratulate you!" he said. "Well," was the reply, "one never knows whether to expect congratulations or a revolver." Laughing, but not much, for he is too concentrated on his business to indulge in levity, he went on to describe in firm unmistakable language the lack of intelligence displayed by those who had drawn up the recipe for the war bread now in use. He spoke of the disease called "rope," and told how fire could not confound it. You may burn your bakery and all the utensils connected with it, and in six weeks the germs of the disease will crop up as fresh as if never an attempt had been made to scorch them. He spoke of an ill-doing little weevil which resides in maize flour and is capable of producing the most disastrous results when incorporated with the human organism. He spoke of the difference in temperature and in time required to cook wheat flour, bean flour, rye and barley and the various other ingredients of that concoction which a well meaning but ill advised Food Ministry has imposed upon the British public. And he went on to talk of the loss of weight that has taken place in all who eat of this bread (which, it seems, varies from three to seven pounds); of the indigestion and rashes, the troubles of the body within and without, and, finally, of the extraordinary waste of bread brought about by the manufacture of so many loaves that turn unfit for human consumption and are consequently given to the chickens or the swine. With grim humour he also narrated the curious fact that loaves are all expected to be the same weight, and the baker must not add to or subtract from it. There was a baker fined the other day, by the by, because his loaf was too heavy. The oven is not a moral beast or the penalty should be exacted from it, as the oven was never invented by which exactly the same temperature could be applied to every loaf at the same time, with the result that, however carefully the dough may be weighed, the loaves themselves come out in three classes—right, overweight and underweight. I asked him to set these things down, and here are his statements. We can confirm many of them, but some are new to us.

Indignation is growing all over the country with the quality of the bread the Government is forcing the bakers to make and sell now. By adding

maize or beans, etc., to an 81 per cent, extract from the wheat an article is made which in many cases is quite unfit for human food, and it affects the public as follows:

- (1) Produces violent indigestion and purging
- (2) Rash and skin irritation.
- (3) Bowel inflammation and appendicitis.
- (4) Fulness, followed by hunger shortly after eating, owing to its want
- of nutritive qualities, being utterly deficient in gluten.

 (5) Has caused the loss in weight of from 3lb. to 7lb. per head of those who have eaten the war bread. [We cannot check this.-ED.]
- It affects the baker also:
 (1) By the loss of four to five quarterns of bread on every sack he bakes; the old pure flour producing four or five quarterns of bread more than the mixture now forced on him.
- (2) By the waste of thousands of loaves g ing out of condition eit er from weevil, rope, "webb" or mildew, four conditions that never occur in pure wheat mixture.
- (3) By having to keep the bread twelve hours before selling, it frequently
- goes out of condition, whereas if eaten new it would have been quite wholesome.

 The remedy for this state of affairs is to take off the twelve-hours-old rule and immediately return to the 75 per cent, pure wheat flour.

Note.—If it is still necessary to add to the wheat production (a point experts do not agree on), then allow the baker to make a batter of maize, flour or whole rice or rye flour and add it to the water when he makes the dough, which renders the additions wholesome and adds to the yield of What the Food Ministry and its advisers have done in this matter

- (1) Caused many foolish prosecutions, such as those for overweight.
- (2) Made an impossible order that bread must weigh the same (neither more nor less) at twelve and thirty hours old, thus allowing for no waste by evaporation, hence impossible.
- (3) Made an 81 per cent. mixture of wheat with additions for flour, thereby wasting 200,000,000 quartern loaves a year, or a loss to the country of £10,000,000 yearly, as the 81 per cent. flour yields five quarterns of bread less to the sack than the old 75 per cent. mixture, and we use 40,000,000 sacks
- of flour yearly.

 (4) Has brought about waste by the throwing away of spoiled bread and established the disease called "rope."

 (5) Has ruined the digestions of thousands.

THE REVOLUTION POTATO GROWING IN

Y the courtesy of the Board of Agriculture we are able to reproduce with this article the excellent pictures used to illustrate an admirable paper on "Potato Spraying for Farmers," by E. S. Salmon, in the new number of the Board's Journal. Our purpose here is not to repeat the excellent advice offered by Mr. Salmon; this our readers can find in the Journal. But the moment seems opportune for directing attention to the extraordinary change which the war has effected in potato cultivation. It started as a temporary war expedient. Yet there has been nothing done which was not strongly advocated by agricultural reformers long before hostilities were begun. It was pointed out in these pages years ago that Germany had pursued a far wiser policy than Great Britain with regard to the potato. Our present enemies had encouraged the cultivation of the tuber to an enormous extent, while we were in the habit of importing a considerable proportion of our potatoes from the Continent. The farmer was accustomed to sniff at the crop. It was a costly one to grow; it was uncertain in result; and if there came a to grow; it was uncertain in result; and if there came a bumper crop he did not know what to do with it. These were not the objections of the backward farmer only. It will be remembered that even as late as last year they were put forward by Mr. Prothero, the President of the Board of Agriculture. When the potato agitation began to assume practical shape he made a speech saying that it would be a mistake to grow too many potatoes, and that, as a matter of fact, we grew as many as were required, implying that to go beyond that limit would be unsafe. The view was held by many very intelligent agriculturists who, however, had not studied the question from every who, however, had not studied the question from every

First of all, the English farmer was content with a ver moderate return. He considered that five or six tons to the acre was a most satisfactory yield, and that anything above ten tons could only be obtained in those parts of the country, such as Lincolnshire, the Lothians and the West of Scotland, where the ground is particularly suitable. We hope that never will a return be made to this state of mind. It is being demonstrated this year, and will be still more clearly demonstrated in the years to come, that the potato can be grown satisfactorily in practically every English soil, although, of course, there are districts more suitable than others.

Ten tons an acre will be regarded as merely a satisfactory To rise to that standard the means are now beginning return. to be understood. It is perfectly true that a limited number of farmers have for a long time known the beneficial effect of obtaining their seed potatoes from Scotland, but it required the war to bring about a general recognition of this fact. Education in this respect has been racing and rushing forward with a swing. Practically speaking, in every parish of the Empire to-day there is visible a crop of potatoes grown from Scottish seed side by side with a crop grown from any seed that the cultivator could lay hold of. This has not been done in any secret or silent fashion, because never was there so much potato talk in the Empire as there has been during the last twelve months, and it is in the nature of things that comparisons should be made incessantly between one field and another. But the improvement obtained by those who purchased the Scottish seed provided by their County War Agricultural Committee is not trifling. It must amount in many cases to one or two tons per acre, though, of course, the amount will vary with the intelligence displayed by the grower. The crops have not been lifted yet, but already not only the experienced farmer, but the allotment holder is recognising the vast difference. Here, then, is Here, then, is the corner stone of what may prove to be a future revolution. It has been suggested that in order to maintain a constant supply of Scottish seed potatoes the Government should reserve certain well known districts in Scotland, so that the business of a part of that country will be to provide their southern neighbours with seed. There can be no going back in work of this kind, though, of course, some tendency to do so may be expected. For example, it is a general belief not altogether unjustified by experience that Scottish seed after being once grown in England is as good for the next year as it was for the first. There may be some truth in this, but it is desirable that the growers should get into the habit of obtaining the greater portion of their seed every year direct from Scotland. By using their own potatoes

they are taking a step backward.

At present the question that was often asked in the past, what is to become of the surplus when there is an extra large crop of potatoes does not arise. At a time when food is scarce the potato can be used for such a great variety of purposes that it is impossible to have too many. Not



First signs of attack. If spraying has The three end leaflets are attacked and partly already been carried out the disease will destroyed; the fungus can be seen as a destroyed. In this case it is too late to not extend further.

Whitish mould or mildew.

The three end leaflets are attacked and partly destroyed. In this case it is too late to spray.

only can it be manipulated so as to appear in many dishes for the home, but at a time when cake and other food for stock is so fearfully dear, potatoes, if there is an overplus, can come in very well for them. No stock-owner who knows his business will sell potatoes this year whatever the crop may be, even though the price may be very high. It would appear from the extraordinary prices, ranging at and about £100 an acre, that have been given for potatoes in Ayrshire that the dealers are firmly con-vinced that prices this year will range as high as they did last year. We fervently hope that they will find themselves mistaken. Of course, those

they are buying just now are young potatoes, and there will be a tremendous sale for them as soon as they appear on the market. But everywhere the tubers are coming to hand now very quickly, and considering the quantity sown, there should be enough to put an end to ex-travagant prices. Our personal impression at first was that although there has been a huge increase in the land cultivated for potatoes by allotment people and small-holders big grovers had not by allotment people and small-holders, big growers had not extended the area. We are informed from an efficial informed from an official source that this impression, which was shared by many members of the Food Ministry, is erroneous. According to the returns now coming in, it is evident that the potato area has been very much enlarged in 1917, so that there is every prospect that the harvest will meet every reasonable demand made upon it. But in ordinary times the Germans provided for the use of a surplus by allowing alcohol to be made out of



Haulm almost entirely destroyed.

Haulm entirely destroyed.



Potato tubers which have been attacked and spoiled by blight.

Hitherto our potatoes. Inland Revenue has insisted on restrictions which have made this impossible, but in future years we hope that greater freedom will be allowed. For potato growing is a valuable help to the land. Farmers know already that deep ploughing is essential to great success, and deep ploughing is needed for all our crops. If the time comes, as assuredly it will, when we grow beets for manufacturing into sugar, then deep ploughing will be neces-sary. In the next place, it is customary to manure very highly for potatoes. Farmyard manure, potash and superphosphates are very freely used, so that the land is really enriched

by the crop. Finally, the cultivation, ploughing, hoeing and earthing up all tend towards that thorough aeration which is the making of fertility in soil.

Spraying, to which we have already made allusion, is being inculcated at a rate that seemed hopeless before the occurrence of the present state of things. Demonstrations, object lessons and actual practice have been going on through the length and breadth of the land, thanks mainly to the activity of the County War Committees, and when growers have once learned the great advantage of spraying their potatoes we may be sure that the usage will not quickly drop.

If all these things be taken

together they show that nothing less than a complete revolution has been accomplished in potato growing. It is an extraordinarily interesting and important part of the agricultural innovation which has been caused by the war.

Let the potato flourish, then, is likely to be one of the mottoes

of the British agriculture of the future. The tuber has had a curious and varied history since its importation by the great navigator. In Ireland it has long been regarded as the food of the people and also of the pig, but it is only in comparatively recent times that it has been numbered among the essential dishes in an English dinner. Our great-grandfathers were content to use potatoes occasionally. Not till restrictions were put upon consumption did the people of these islands begin to realise the extent to which they had become dependent upon the potato as an article of diet. A potatoless day was more difficult to be borne than a meat-

be wise for him to organise practical instruction in driving and working, and only send out the tractor with a certified driver. No one is better able to impress on a responsible man the exigencies of his machine than the maker himself, and practical results would be attained at once. That seems to be a satisfactory solution of the question.

The ordinary motor car driver is not perfectly suited to the purpose. He wants re-training, but he could be sufficiently enlightened in a very few days; even a man of average intelligence would probably have no difficulty in driving after ten



Spraying experiments with Bordeaux mixture, 1910; general view September 9th.

(The pholographs illustrating this article are reproduced by permission of The Journal of the Board of Agriculture.)

less day. The lesson, however, has been taken well to heart, and all sorts of men have been concentrating their energy on the cultivation of the potato.

FORMING THE DRIVER AND THE PLOUGHMAN

Thas often been stated that the life of the agricultural tractor cannot be ascertained yet because it has not been long enough in use. Probably some of the lighter types will not last very long, but there is no reason to believe that the life of a machine built for the purpose, solid and simple, provided with the latest improvements, should be reckoned at less than ten years, if the driver knows his machine, cares for it and keeps it in a good state of repair.

At present there are good tractors on the market, but the chief difficulty lies with the driver. As a matter of fact, most of the breakdowns and the inefficiency in the work are ascribable to the inexperience of the man who is responsible for the working of the machine. Recently a builder said: "A hayseed can drive my motor." That may be, but it is possible only after training.

Let it be agreed that the tractor and the plough are easy to handle, the fact remains that they are both machines which want proper treatment, and the agricultural motor driver does not yet exist. There is an urgent need for his immediate appearance. It is not sufficient that a man is able to start the engine, to drive it and keep it properly; the purchaser would be well advised to employ only drivers with practical experience of the machines they are going to manage, while it certainly would be to the makers' advantage to put their machines only in the hands of men who understand their working perfectly. The maker should remember that although the blame for failures may not necessarily be put on his machine, in point of fact, it will be largely attributed to it. Therefore it would, perhaps,

days' good training, and be able to do running repairs in three weeks.

It is essential for the life of the motor and the economy of the work that the driver should be familiar with the working parts: the motor itself, the clutch, the cogs, the handles, etc., so as to avoid irregular working, which wears out the machine unnecessarily and causes breakdowns. He must have a practical knowledge of sparking plugs and magnetos, so as to be able to regulate and keep these parts in order.

The magneto of the agricultural motor should be adapted to a slow-moving machine and produce a powerful spark. economic use of petrol, paraffin and oil must be understood so as to ensure the maximum of efficiency at a minimum cost. It is said that some agricultural tractors work on about 98 per cent. of ordinary paraffin and 2 per cent. of petrol under a skilled man: which means that the unskilled man uses a higher proportion of petrol. The driver also must be able to regulate the carburettor and the admission of right proportions of fuel, and to keep down the consumption. Thorough lubrication is essential, as it does more to ensure a long life to every working part of the tractor than anything else, but it must not mean waste of oil. A difficulty to be overcome with the ordinary motor car driver lies in the difference of speed to which he is accustomed. He would get a machine out of order in a very short time if he indulged in high speeds. The agricultural tractor is not built for that purpose. With the ordinary man, the cooling system wants to be well considered; moreover, more care must be required from him for the tractor than he usually gives to the ordinary farm implement.

The effort required from the machine must be taken into consideration; so must, for instance, the use of the shares be regulated according to the nature of the soil and the depth of ploughing, as too much effort imposed upon it might result in the plough breaking down. The plough must be let in progressively. The quality and quantity of the work performed will also depend on the ability of the driver in turning and guiding

the motor, avoiding excessive headlands, setting in on the right place and regulating the width of the furrows.

All this and several other points may be learned in a few days, but it is necessary to know this at the outset because when the ploughman and the driver have to find out for themselves, the work for some time will be unsatisfactory, and perhaps the owner may have to pay heavily for the ignorance of his servants.

H. VENDELMANS.

MANURING AND LIMING OF GRASS LAND

BY DR. BRENCHLEY.

I.-MANURING.

F late years much has been written with regard to the improvement of grass land by the judicious application of farmyard manure and artificial fertilisers, and it is now an accepted truism that basic slag on many soils encourages a rich growth of clover, which in itself improves the land, whereas dressings of such nitrogenous manures as ammonium sulphate or nitrate of soda tend to kill off the leguminous plants and to encourage the grasses. Nevertheless, much room for improvement remains, and it is instructive to compare the different types of herbage that arise when grass land is repeatedly manured with different mixtures of artificial fertilisers.

A piece of grass land at Rothamsted, on heavy, clayey loam, was fenced in in 1855 and divided into plots, each of which has been treated in a specified way ever since, two plots being left unmanured to act as controls. No seeds have been sown and the hay and aftermath are cut and removed from the ground. The vegetation now varies so much from plot to plot that it is difficult for an outsider to believe that the herbage has been differentiated from the original park grass simply by the action of the manures applied.

The natural vegetation, as shown by the unmanured plots, is very mixed, consisting of a large number of species of grasses, clovers and miscellaneous plants, the latter contributing about twenty-three species in a total of forty. The rough hawkbit is very conspicuous, and ribwort plantain, hardhead and pignut are also much in evidence. The grasses are short and tend to form a fairly good bottom, sheep's fescue and bent grasses predominating. A characteristic plant is quaking grass, which is always a sign of poverty or exhaustion of soil if it is present to any appreciable extent. Red clover and bird's foot trefoil are fairly plentiful, the amount varying with the season.

The continued application of superphosphate has done little to raise the average yield of hay, but the herbage is very different from that on the unmanured land, though the relative proportion of grasses, leguminous plants and weeds is much the same in most seasons. Sheep's fescue has held its own, but the undesirable bent grass has been much reduced in quantity, though it has been replaced by an increase in Yorkshire fog and downy oat, neither of which is regarded by farmers with much favour. In the present year ribwort plantain is very abundant and yellow vetchling occurs in occasional dense patches. On the whole superphosphate has not improved the quantity or quality of the herbage, a result which tallies with that of practical men on certain types of land, indicating that superphosphate exhausts the soil in many cases unless it is supplemented by lime or other manures.

Nitrogenous manures, if used alone, cause a radical change in the composition of the herbage. The legaminous plants are killed out so completely that it is often difficult to find even a vestige of them, while the grasses are so encouraged that they form about 70 per cent. to 80 per cent. of the hay. The crop is increased and is often double that obtained with superphosphate, while the grass takes on the characteristic dark green colour that is associated with the presence of abundant nitrogen. Ammonium sulphate and nitrate of soda are both efficient in increasing the crop, though the results vary according to the season, as in a wet year the nitrate is rapidly washed out and lost, whereas in a dry year the less soluble ammonium salt does not get a fair chance of coming into play. The influence of these two manures upon the herbage is, however, very different. Ammonium sulphate tends to reduce the number of species very considerably (to about sixteen altogether) and to encourage a narrow-leaved type of vegetation, while the nitrate stimulates the broad-leaved plants and allows some thirty species to persist, so that the appearance of the plots just before hay time is very different. With ammonium sulphate sheep's fescue, bent grass and sweet vernal make up the bulk

of the grasses, though a good deal of cock's foot and Yorkshire fog also occurs, while hardhead is present in such great quantity that the other weeds form but a very small percentage of the hay even when they are all classed together. Nitrate of soda, on the other hand, reduces the amount of sheep's fescue very considerably, and brings on a corresponding amount of the broader-leaved foxtail, the dominant weed being ribwort plantain with hardhead as a very good second.

The use of mixtures of artificial fertilisers effects a greater improvement in the herbage than the use of single manures, whether mineral or nitrogenous. All mixtures tend to increase the crop to a greater or less degree and to reduce the number of species occurring, the increase of crop and the reduction of species being greatest when a nitrogenous fertiliser is present in the manure. A mixture of various mineral manures has a very different action according to whether potash is present or absent. The inclusion of potash causes a large increase in crop and encourages the growth of the leguminous plants at the expense of the weeds. A large percentage of the herbage consists of sheep's fescue with a good deal of cock's foot and bent grass in addition. The great feature in this case is the unusually large quantity of yellow vetchling, which grows in great clumps and as an undergrowth to everything else. Hardhead and yarrow are often the chief weeds, but this year pignut is more conspicuous than either. Ribwort plantain does not seem to appreciate potash, and very little is present here.

When potash is omitted the average crop is not very

When potash is omitted the average crop is not very considerably higher than that on the unmanured land, and the vegetation is much less luxuriant than in the presence of potash. A quantity of bent grass and Yorkshire fog is associated with the dominant sheep's fescue, but the yellow vetchling is far less in evidence than when a complete mineral manure is supplied. Ribwort plantain and hardhead are abundant and milfoil is fairly frequent, but most of the other words.

weeds occur in very small amount.

The addition of nitrogen to these mixtures of mineral manures causes further changes in the herbage, the trend of the differences being determined by the form of nitrogenous compound applied. Both ammonium salts and nitrate of soda increase the crops to the same extent, as was seen before when these manures were applied separately without the addition of minerals. Nitrate again encourages a broad-leaved vegetation but does not kill out the leguminous plants nearly so completely as ammonium salts, meadow vetchling being one of the characteristic features of the plot. The greater part of the herbage is made up of false oat and foxtail, which sometimes contribute over 60 per cent., sheep's fescue, cock's foot and soft brome accounting for another Very few weeds are present by hay time, but 16 per cent. earlier in the season dandelions are very plentiful, and in the long lush grass their leaves grow to an enormous size, often reaching 2ft. or more in length. The wild chervil is also very characteristic, and when it is in flower marks the plot out sharply from its neighbours with its spreading umbels of white flowers. Pignut is present to some extent over the whole meadow, but it is very noticeable that when a full dressing of nitrate of soda is applied in conjunction with mixed mineral manures the pignut entirely disappears, its place being taken by its coarse-growing ally, wild chervil or keck. The chervil is localised on the nitrate plots, and evidently both pignut and chervil respond very markedly to the particular form of nitrogenous manuring adopted. With ammonium salts and minerals the crop is again

With ammonium salts and minerals the crop is again very heavy and there is more variety in the grasses, but false oat or sweet vernal grass (according to season) are very abundant. The frequency of the other grasses also varies with the season, but sheep's fescue, bent grass and cock's foot are generally well in evidence. Little else but grass is present as the leguminous plants are entirely suppressed, and the weeds are represented by a certain amount of sorrel, hardly anything else being visible. Where potash is omitted the

same balance is maintained, as clovers are again absent and weeds very scarce, but the distribution of the grasses is somewhat altered and there is a sharp decline in crop as the vegetation is very thin. In some years nearly half the grass is sweet vernal, while sheep's fescue, foxtail and a little false oat account for nearly the whole of the other half, as very little bent grass is present. It is obvious that the pre-sence of a sufficiency of potash is essential to the production of a full crop, and on some soils potash manuring would effect a greater improvement than any other.

Up to a certain limit the manuring of grass land is profitable, as the quantity and quality of the herbage are alike improved, and the land provides more and better food for stock, if fed off, or else a larger amount of hay which commands a better price in the market because of its superior feeding value. If, however, manuring is carried to excess, the quantity of hay continues to increase, but the plants become so coarse and rank that the value of the herbage is deteriorated. Besides this the cost of the excess manure is not refunded by the extra profit made, and a very heavily manured field may yield much less profit than one more lightly dressed, even though the crop be very much higher in the first case. When a heavy additional dressing of ammonium salts is when a heavy additional dressing of ammontant sates applied everything is killed except the grasses, and these grow so rank and tall that in some seasons, as in 1914, the stame resemble wheat straw rather than grass stalks. Very few species are able to survive, only seven appearing out of the forty that are common on the unmanured land. Of these seven one or other is pre-eminent in different seasons. In 1914. Yorkshire fog constituted 91 per cent. of the herbage and little else occurred except some amount of false oat and a little foxtail. In other seasons foxtail or false oat may be dominant, and yet again two or three of the species may be present in more equal amounts. The variation in the relative abundance of species is probably greater with excessive manuring than in any other case. The grasses

tend to flower heavily so that the hay consists largely of stems with comparatively little leaf, which further reduces the feeding value

The results that have now been described all deal with land that has been left unlimed. If lime be added to the manures such radical and important changes occur in the herbage that it is impossible to deal with them within the limits of a single article, so the place of lime in the economy of grass land must be discussed at a later date.

THE ISLAND OF SKYE.

When the grey gull stoops to the swinging wave, And screams as he swerves aside, Wheeling and watching and waiting to save Wonderful gifts from the tide. The flash of his wings and his haunting cry Carry me back to the Island of Skye.

Gannets, a-plunge through a forty-foot drop Spearing their prev in the deep, Puffins, a-nest in the sandy cliff-top, Shag, on the ledge of the steep, The sun, and the wind, and the seabirds' cry Calling me back to the Island of Skye.

Old Castle Dunvegan stands grim on the rock, Duntulm frowns down on the sea, But grey wings of freedom swept over the Loch Ere men set a stone on the lea, And ever I hear in the seagulls' cry, "Come back, come back, to the Island of Skye."

HENRY COOPER.

LAG GOOSE THE GREY

HE majority of grey lag geese nest on the main island, but they sometimes choose the larger rocks in the rocky islets for the upbringing of their young. The nest is generally placed deep down in the heather.

Occasionally it may be found among coarse grass. It is composed of heather, grass, moss and down. At first there is no lining of down, but as the clutch of eggs approaches completion these are gradually bedded in down. em-Nests vary considerably in bulk. Sometimes they are a mere platform of coarse heather In most we saw the twigs. down was so thick it hardly seemed possible that one bird could remove so much of her own down without looking ragged and disreputable.

Like the Amatidæ in general, the grey lag will sit quietly and allow anyone to creep up and photograph her while brooding. But when once disturbed and put off the nest, she may be hours making up her mind to return. This particular goose was no exception to the rule. On May 13th I stood over her with a hand camera and let off several plates. crept into my tent and began to put up a stand camera. This annoyed her and she flew away with a loud "gaggle, gaggle," I waited in vain for on May 18th I tried again. The wind blew a gale

and there were occasional scudding showers of hail. The nest was situated on a bleak hillside exposed to almost every wind that blew. Each time a squall came I had to hang on to the tent supports to keep it steady. The camera quiyered to

such an extent that it seemed madness to attempt photography. Yet none of the exposures made showed any trace of movement. Between the showers, the light was grand, but the dark brown heather absorbed most of it.

This goose was the most inconsequent bird I ever photographed. She seemed altogether bored with the duties of incubation. Often she would sit and yawn repeatedly and sigh, or repeatedly and sigh, or "shonk" quietly to herself. She frequently left the nest without covering the eggs, consequently the surrounding heather was strewn with loose bits of down.

When she chose to return, she bustled up to the nest with an air of rigid determination. From her aspect one would imagine that her whole mind was occupied with her duties. After carefully uncovering the eggs she would bend over them admiringly. she settled down and stared at the tent. The rain and hail annoyed her, but provided her with a certain amount of occupation. When the showers were over she carefully removed all the moisture from her plumage with her bill. A final polish



AN AIR OF RIGID DETERMINATION

was given by rubbing the side of her head all the side of her head all over her breast and back—at least as far as she could reach. Finally, she tucked her bill under one wing and went to sleep, occasionally opening one eye. Thus she would lie blinking in the sun, perhaps for an hour or more. But before long boredom assailed her. boredom assailed her and she would stand up and push the eggs about. This turning of the eggs took place far more frequently than was necessary or wise. Sometimes a skein of geese passed overhead. Whether these were immature or non-breeding birds or males belonging to the various females brooding in the vicinity, I do not know. Their honking disturbed my goose very much. She turned and watched them as they approached, and gazed longingly after them. Once the clamour of this irresponsible party was too much for her, and with a lond "gaggle" she flew from the nest and circled overhead. It was nearly two hours before she returned.

The behaviour of this goose contrasted most unfavourably with that of another brooding grey lag which I passed on my way to and from the tent. In due course she was seen conducting a little party of goslings over the heather, as the result of exemplary behaviour.

E, L. TURNER.

A NOVEL OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

Fishpingle, by H. A Vachell. (Murray.)

IN Fishpingle Mr. H. A. Vachell has written a vigorous, interesting, dramatic story for which the preface he writes appears to be superfluous. One is sure that the exhilaration of writing so good a story was much stronger than his wish to point a moral and adorn a tale. Yet it is encouraging to those of us who are advocating rural reform to find that literature is turning an eye in that direction. A little while ago Mr. Maurice Hewlett produced a sort of revolutionary epic or Hodgiad in which he represented the toil - worn serf drudging through centuries and centuries; though it failed of its effect because Mr. Hewlett did not take into account the basic fact that each and all



ASLEEP WITH ONE EYE OPEN.



SHE WOULD YAWN REPEATEDLY.



REMOVING THE MOISTURE FROM HER PLUMAGE.



THE GREY LAG GOOSE: TURNING THE EGGS.

of us are descendants of the sons of the soil. There have been peasants in every age; but in how many cases has the grandson of the serf become a leader of men? Mr. Vachell is much less turbulent than the novelist-poet. In a way he recognises two classes—the governors and the governed—and his plot turns upon the catastrophe that must follow when in these democratic times the owner of land tries to exercise feudal rights. But his main point is that the landowner is not advancing with the times. Unless in the case of a few of the rich, he generally is either an amateur himself or employs amateurs to carry on his estate. He does not listen to and apply the teachings of science, and accordingly he is represented as being in a bad way: short of cash; bowed down with mortgages; looking to the marriage of his heir as the means of salvation. The conception is, we think, a little antediluvian. The real point is that the new style of landowner is usually one whose capital is invested in anything except land. His estate was acquired before the war for pleasure, and his business usually lies in a great commercial company. The principle to be fought for is that everybody connected with the land should look upon it as his bank and his best investment. Let us try to get back the landowner who lives on the land, the farmer who regards land as the best place in which to invest his money, and the labourer who is saving either for the purpose of acquiring land or renting it. But it is rather a shame to take up time in discussing the Land Question when we have before us an excellent story that is quite sufficient of itself without any moral. Mr. Vachell challenges the critic to say when it was written—before or after the play of the same name. But really that is a matter of very little consequence. What we do feel is that the beginning is just a little bit languid, as if the writer has gained fire and enthusiasm as he went on. From the middle onwards the narrative is at the red-hot point and lays one under a spell of attention. The interplay of character is most skilful, and brings out many striking contrasts and resemblances. The piece has a comparatively small drama! is persona. In the centre is the figure of the purely Meredithian squire; not perhaps the most brilliant creation, hammered out with an axe, as were so many of George Meredith's characters, but done in strong, decided lines. He is kindness itself, but an autocrat; and the

comedy of the serving-maid and the serving-man who are set on marriage despite the opposition which their master and his "eugannicks" bring to bear, is pleasant in itself and helps on the story. The young English heir hardened and made a man of by soldiering in India, the little bit of a minx to whom is allotted the part of the rich heiress whose shekels are to remove the burdens of the estate, the Radical parson and his ideal daughter, make a very interesting company. Mr. Fishpingle, whose name supplies the title to the book, has figured in many a previous romance. His progenitor was no less a person than Tom Jones himself. But his relationship to the man whom for fifty years he has served as butler remains a well kept secret to the end of the book. It might be a fair surmise that some chapters after starting the idea of the stage came resolutely into the author's head, and the last seems were made for the limelight. At any rate, this is a fair and the last scenes were made for the limelight. At any rate, this is a fair inference from the force and directness of the dialogue, the smartness of the repartee, the mingling of liveliness and force withal. The book is most excellent reading.

Sportsmen undoubtedly will think that the best of the book is to be sportsmen undoubtedly will think that the best of the book is to be found in the descriptions of golf, shooting and hunting. The golf is a four-some played between the father and his lady guest, with his son and the parson's daughter as opponents. Mr. Vachell succeeds very prettily in bringing out the characteristics of the girls, the determination of Miss Joyce, and the fizzling out after a brilliant start of her volatile rival. It reads like som the struggles that used to be described on the links of St. Andrews. last hole, very properly, is the most exciting:
"Margot had the easiest of approach putts, but her blunder at the

seventeenth lay heavy on her mind. She was terrified of overrunning the mark. She putted feebly; the ball quivered upon the crest of the slope and rolled back. When it stopped it was further from the hole than before. "'Um!' said the Squire. 'An inch more and you'd have done it.

Cheer up!'

She was biting her lip with vexation.

"The Squire putted for the hole and missed it.
"'I've this for the match,' said Lionel."



THE GREY LAG GOOSE: SHE WOULD BEND OVER THEM ADMIRINGLY.



T is nearly two centuries since Madeley Court sank to the status of a farmhouse, and the revival of interest in the gems of our architectural past has only increased neglect and ill-treatment. Until recent times the main block of the house, containing hall and chapel, though not inhabited, retained evidence of its former excellence, especially in its woodwork. All this has been removed to unsympathetically deck a nineteenth century Gothic house in the neighbourhood, and the shell is a dirty and dilapidated store place for farm stuff. Yet the whole extensive group of buildings, occupying a cup or hollow in the hills is fascinatingly picturesque, and would be most pleasurable to visit but for the regret that so fine a specimen of our Early Renaissance style should have received such sorry treatment.

Madeley, as we saw last week, was a dependency of the great Priory of Wenlock, and was more closely connected with it than Benthall, for the priors, who, at the close of the fifteenth century, had housed themselves sumptuously within the precincts of the Abbey itself (COUNTRY LIFE, April 20th, 1907) had a place of country retirement at this manor. John Cressage had been prior for fifteen years when the Dissolution came in 1539 and he bowed before the storm. He obeyed the royal order to relinquish his position and the property of his House. In return he was given a pension of £30 a year and Madeley Manor as a residence. Thither he retired, and there fourteen years later he died. We learn that he "willed a cope of red and blue tafata embrodered with gold and silver to the Parish of Much Wenlock, as late prior there, on condition that part of the parish should at his decease meet his body at Buildwas Bridge and bring him to Wenlock Church to be buried." But copes were then at a discount and ex-priors persons of no importance.

So the day after he died they laid him beneath the sod at Madeley. The estate had already been disposed of by the Crown, and though Mary the Catholic now began her short reign, and a devout Catholic lawyer had been the purchaser at a cost of £946 3s. 8d., the church did not get back its own. The new Court in due course arose and became the seat of his descendants.

Thomas Brooke was of Claverley near by, and he sent his son Robert to Oxford and the Middle Temple. There he prospered, and in 1552 Stow calls him "the compleatest lawyer of his time." The accession of Mary found him a Serjeant-at-Law and Recorder of London. As his religious views coincided with that of his new mistress he was made Speaker of the 1554 Parliament that arranged for and witnessed the nuptials of the English Queen and the Spanish King. In the autumn the Parliament was dissolved, and Mary appointed this "most zealous Catholic" her Chief Justice of the Common Pleas and dubbed him a knight. Like most men of his age he was not averse from "methods of frightfulness," and when Lord Stourton refused to plead before him in a murder case he "threatened him with being pressed to death." That is about all we know of Sir Robert. He died in Shropshire and was buried at Claverley, where he may be seen in alabaster lying in his official robes with a wife on each side of him and his numerous progeny grouped below. Round the edge of the tomb we read that he, "visiting his frendes and country deceas'd the 6th day of September, 1558, after he had begotten of Anne and Dorothee his wiefs XVII children."

Dying so soon after he got possession of the Court it is doubtful whether the Chief Justice completed, or even began, the Elizabethan house of which the remnants are illustrated.



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FROM THE OLD GARDEN ENCLOSURE.





conveight.

rounded arch

about ten feet wide, having the same proportions and mouldings as the smaller one

It presents an Lshaped house, backing to the north on to a great fish-pond (Fig. 2), while to the south it occupies two sides of an ample forecourt which was entered through the archway of a fine gate-house with octagon turrets. house does not give the impres-sion of being much earlier than the structure of Benthall, as illustrated last week. The one original cluster of chimney shafts that remains is almost identical in its grouping and mouldings with those at



THE OLD PORCH.

Benthall. The form of fenestration is also similar, with the same plain chamfered section. The gable finials and drip-stone headings to the windows incline one to place it early in the reign of the Virgin Queen, but there is no trace of a survival of the characteristic features of her father's time such as we find at Plaish and which we should have looked for had it been built by Sir Robert under her sister. The porch (Fig. 3), which breaks the line of the drip-stone of the adjoining window, must have been added a little later, even in the next reign, and is clearly by the same designer as the gate-house (Fig. 4), whereof decay, occupation as a cottage and association with pigstyes have not destroyed the picturesqueness, although they have marred the proportions. It was a most shapely structure. Flanked by the three-storeyed turrets, the building, containing rooms above and below, was centrally pierced by a

of the porch. That finished little structure is topped by two elaborate gableshaped achievements. The gate-house dormer is on the same scheme, and porch and gate - house are enriched by the same roundels, made out of a single stone. A convex centre, bearing a geo-metric or floral decoration, is set in a moulded frame, and the device is scattered pleasantly

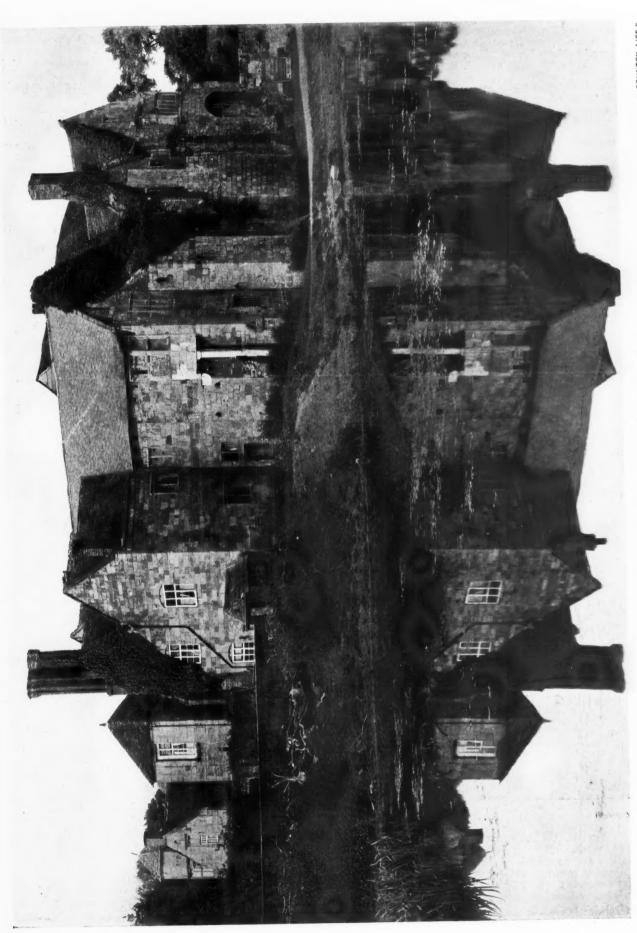
below and between the windows of the turrets or breaks the plainness of their windowless upper tier. Much the same are found at Condover, Shropshire's most stately Elizabethan stone-built house. Although Madeley town is, like Broseley, industrial, yet both retain an old world size and semblance, and the Court is as far from its town as is Benthall Hall from Broseley. It lies alone with its old and extensive outbuildings and farmery, with no smoky dinginess about its surface. The principal material is a fine ashlar stone quarried locally and varying in colour, through the presence of russety iron stains, but mellowed to a clean grey. Exceptional in this locality are the stone tiles of the roofing, which are not a local product. The country was early one of brick and baked tiles, and these are likewise found in old buildings about Madeley Court.



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THE GATE-HOUSE.

"COUNTRY LIFE"



HOUSE AND GATE - HOUSE FROM THE EAST.

The original bricks were 9in. to 10in. long and 2in. to 21in. wide, varied but generally deep in tone and of rough texture and surface. Of them was built the great walled garden lying west of the house. The illustration (Fig. 1) shows that one end of the house opened into it through a little doorway, but there will have been a fine portal and other architectural incidents between it and the forecourt. Of the latter the wall was stone built, fairly low and coped. But this wall ends at a distance from the house about equal to the projection of the wing on the opposite side of the forecourt and below recent brick filling may be seen the stonework of apertures and the plinths of a building, as if something in the way of an arched screen and a garden house had stood

height of 2ft. The north side of the block is plain, the others covered with hollows, round, square, triangular and shield-shaped, the last, no doubt, once containing the arms of the owner and his wife. The larger hollows have the sockets in which the gnomons were fixed, and sometimes even remnants of these.

Records of the Brookes of Madeley seem even more scanty than those of the Benthalls of Benthall. ants of the Catholic Chief Justice occupied it during the whole period when heavy pains and penalties fell upon those who adhered to the old faith, and who sought to have Mass said in their homes. The house still bears evidence that the line in their homes, were zealous Brookes, like the founder of their fortunes, were zealous Catholics. Mr. Allan Fea, a tireless

discoverer of priests' holes, must have revelled in his visit to Madeley Court, for he tells us that it is "honeycombed with places of concealment and escape. A ruinous apartment at and escape. A ruinous apartment at the top of the house, known as the chapel—only a few years ago wains-coted to the ceiling and divided by a fine oak screen—contained a secret chamber behind one of the panels. This could be fastened on the inside by a strong bolt. The walls are of immense thickness, and the recesses and nooks noticeable everywhere were evidently at one time places of con-cealment; one long triangular recess extends between two chambers and was no doubt for the purpose of reaching the basement from the first floor otherwise than by the staircase. In the upper part of the house a dismal well extends to the ground level, where it slants off in an oblique direction below the building and terminates in a large pool." Whether this was to carry off slops or priests may be open to discussion, but the general arrangements resemble those of Ufton in Berkshire, of which the use by Jesuit priests is well authenticated. This has been carefully preserved, and drawings of them—secret panels, well-holes, etc.-were given in Country Life on June 22nd, 1907. No wonder, then, that Sir Basil Brooke, who lived here when Charles and his Parliament came to loggerheads, warmly opposed the Puritan party. Like Benthall, the situation of Madeley within the Severn's coalbearing area made its occupation desirable to either party. A big two-storeyed solid outbuilding of Elizabethan days is still locally known as the barracks, and Madeley Court is returned as one of the "garrisons" lost to King Charles after Naseby. That, however, is all that is known of its history during that troublous time. A later Sir Basil will have had securer occupation. He left money and cottages to the poor of Madeley in 1706, and will be the owner who carried out some internal renovations under William III or Anne, as shown in the last illustration. represents a room in the east wing, "COUNTRY LIFE." now used as a cottage. The big bolection moulding of the marble fire arch, the position and character of the dado rail.



THE GREAT SUNDIAL.

here, very likely in the same manner and by the same hand The great garden is now a bare field, but the massive and remarkable sundial, or planetarium, which was Mrs. Gatty, in her book on sundials, tells us that the big and the central feature of an elaborate lay-out, remains (Fig. 6) little hollows on all three sides help to tell the hour, and instrument can also be used for finding the position of the moon in relation to the planets." Either it has been respected or it has defied removal. Its body is a block of stone over 4ft. in cube. This stands on squat pillars 15in. high, and is topped by a hemisphere, making the total height about 6ft. 6in. above the platform on which it stands. This is 16ft. in diameter in three levels, its steps giving an added

the large outstanding panels, the entablature form of the cornice all mark it of the time when Wren trans-formed Hampton Court for our Dutch King. Let into the panel above the fireplace is a picture of a man holding a racehorse, while over the doorway are classic scenes. These would certainly be more sympathetic to Sir Basil than to the tenant who followed him in occupation. In the year when Sir Basil died, Abraham Darby, the Quaker, had learnt in Holland the improved art of casting iron cookingpots, and he at first practised it at Bristol. But in 1709 he removed to Colebrookdale, where a "smeth house" had existed as early as Tudor times, and where the great forest



INTERIOR OF SIR BASIL BROOKE'S TIME.

lands, wherein the old Wenlock priors had hunted, provided fuel for the extraction of iron from the abundant local ore. Soon Abraham Darby had an output of 150 pots and kettles per week, and was also casting "a few grates, smoothing-irons, door frames, weights, baking plates, cart-bushes, iron pestles and mortars, and occasionally a tailor's goose." Wood was getting scarce, and Darby turned his attention to the use of coal both for smelting and for the manufacture of iron. In the form of coke he was certainly employing it largely at Coalbrookdale before his death occurred in 1717 at Madeley Court, of which he had taken a lease on coming to Shropshire. His son and grandson developed the use of coal, which became universal in the iron industry, and under their guidance the Coalbrookdale works became great and flourishing, as they still continue to be

The second Abraham Darby did not renew the lease of Madeley Court, for Mr. H. E. Forrest, in his "Old Houses of Wenlock," tells us that on the elder Darby's death "it was occupied only by tenant farmers, and rapidly fell from its high estate, its decay hastened by neglect and undermining." The present condition is certainly picturesque, but it is pitiful, as threatening complete ruin. It is grievous that no better use can be found for so excellent a survival of our architectural past, so that a sufficient measure of reparation might give proper value to its features and secure H. AVRAY TIPPING. its fabric for the future.

THE GARDEN IN

THE IMPORTANCE OF SAVING SEED.

HERE is no need for alarm; at the same time there are breakers ahead and we must be prepared to meet them. The plain fact is this: that there is likely to be a serious shortage of vegetable seeds next spring unless means are now taken of averting it. There are many ways in which we can all help. For example, in many gardens there still remain a few plants of last season's leeks. These may be in a neglected condition, and probably are, but they will nevertheless be very useful if allowed to flower and run to seed. Plants grown for exhibition are not the best for seed purposes; on the contrary, overmanured plants invariably give poor crops of seed. At the same time, we are not deprecating the growing of large leeks. They are, in fact, of superior flavour to small leeks; but the same cannot be said of most other vegetables, turnips, marrows, or kohl rabi, for example. When the seed of the leek begins to dry off, the whole spike should be cut and hung up in a dry, airy shed to further ripen. Do not attempt to remove the seeds for some months; the spikes may be left hanging until January or February, when the seeds can be removed and sown at once.

Much the same applies to onions, but a word of warning should be uttered here against the use of those onions which have "bolted"; that is to say, those which have prematurely run to seed. Owing, no doubt, to the recent spell of dry weather, many onion beds which a few weeks ago looked full of promise now show signs of an unusually high percentage of "bolters," much to the disgust of the gardener. It would be unwise to save these plants for seed purposes, for "bolters" are almost sure to produce plants with a great tendency to run quickly to seed. The best plan is to pinch out the young spikes at once. However, onion seed is scarce and it is likely to be even more so next spring. It may be obtained from matured and fair-sized bulbs, where such exist, in the second year.

The parsnip is another vegetable that seeds in the second year. It is now too late to plant roots with the object of getting seed this year and it is one of those crops in which there is likely to be a serious shortage. Seed should be saved in gardens where possible. By the way, pursnip seed does not keep as well as most other seeds, and judging by the very scanty way in which it has germinated this spring, we fear that a good deal of old seed has been sown. As most people sow seeds far too thickly, the dilution with old seed is often attended with highly satisfactory results; but there is a limit, and readers are advised to deal only with those firms who have a reputation to maintain and who make a point of testing samples of all seeds before they are

It should be distinctly understood that the home saving of seed is recommended purely as a war measure. It takes years to work up a stock of any variety before a good yield of fertile seed that will come true to type may be obtained. This requires expert knowledge combined with careful and intelligent selection. and it is obviously best to leave it to the seedsman whose special business it is. The seedsman aims to get varieties true from seed. and this presents a multiplicity of difficulties. It is impossible for the inexperienced to determine from the outward appearances of a number of similar plants which will give progeny most like the parent and the least variable. But there is no need for us to dwell upon the deep problems of plant breeding and seed sowing; all that is necessary is to use common-sense methods in saving seed of useful vegetables. In all cases seed should be well ripened-it cannot be over ripe; on the other hand, a point well known among gardeners is that immature seed produces feeble and precocious progeny.

The members of the cabbage family present great difficulties owing to the readiness with which they cross with one another. As this family embraces such widely different subjects as the colewort and the turnip, kohl rabi and cauliflower, kale and broccoli, the chances of atavism may be readily understood. Nevertheless, we must do the best we can with the material at our disposal. In normal times we rely to a great extent upon Italy for our supply of cauliflower and other seeds of the cabbage family, but it is unlikely that we shall receive much from that quarter in time for sowing next spring, for it is well known in the seed trade that the seed stocks of cauliflower in heavy consignments were sent to the bottom of the sea last autumn. The varieties of beetroots are like the members of the cabbage family, in that they cross very readily with varieties that might by chance be flowering in the neighbourhood at the same time. To avoid disappointment in the progeny, care should be taken to guard against indiscriminate intercrossing by removing those flowering beetroots or cabbages that are not required for seed purposes.

Perhaps the most essential of all garden crops for seed saving are the peas and beans, but the former will need protection against birds. Every care should be taken to preserve both pea and bean seeds, not only for sowing, but as food for the winter. Young green peas are delicious, but they should be regarded somewhat in the nature of luxuries this year. The dried pea may not be palatable, but it is a valuable and sustaining food, and if saved in quantity would be a great asset in guarding against the possible and, we fear, all too probable food shortage next winter.

Birds are likely to be troublesome, not only with peas, but also with other vegetables that are left to seed. In the village of Claygate, Surrey, the inhabitants, stimulated by the offer of handsome money prizes, are competing for the heaviest

yield of sunflower seed. Sunflower seed is a valuable food for poultry, and it may be used to take the place of grain, although it is also employed in the manufacture of margarine, while in Russia it is used as human food. But the old inhabitants of Claygate look very dubiously upon the fat and flourishing sunflowers already 3ft. or 4ft. high that are springing up in cottage gardens and waste places, for they will tell you that owing to the notorious sparrows it is twenty years since they saw a head of sun-

flower seed in the village. Cottagers' wives are making large muslin bags for the purpose of protecting the heads of seeds against birds.

With regard to the potato, all the seed tubers we require can be grown in the British Isles. The policy of using home-saved tubers is not to be recommended, at least not for more than one year, as it generally leads to the deterioration of the crop. Change of seed is necessary in order to obtain the best results, and Scotch or Irish grown seed is much to be preferred. It would be expected that small potatoes from a productive soil in Scotland would give a greater yield than full-sized seed tubers from the Southern Counties.

In all probability a leaflet dealing with the means of averting the possible seed shortage will soon be issued by the Board of Agriculture. In the meantime this is one of the many grim facts that needs

impressing while there is still time to avert a serious shortage next spring. $\mbox{\ \, H.}$ C.

THE YELLOW AUSTRIAN BRIAR (Rosa fætida = R. lutea).

THE bloom of this beautiful single Rose has been fuller than usual and more intensely bright in its pure, strong yellow colouring. It is a member of the spinosissima group of Roses, represented in the British Isles by the Burnet Rose of our coasts, of which the Scotch Briars are the garden

A YELLOW ROSE: THE AUSTRIAN BRIAR.

derivatives. The native places of the yellow Austrian Briar range from the Crimca, through Asia Minor to Turkestan and Tibet, but it has also been found sparingly in Switzerland and Southern France. The brilliant scarlet Rose called the Copper Austrian Briar, is botanically the same, though with this curious variation in colour; their identity has been established by

flowers of the two colours having been found on the same plant. It is related to other yellow-flowered species, namely, Xanthina, Hugonis and Eca, these ranging from the Altai Mountains to Western China. $Rosa\ lutea$ is sometimes confounded with the Persian Briar $(R.\ persica)$, but this is a double flower.

WHITE FOXGLOVES.

Although Foxgloves, whether white or coloured, are best of all in woodland, they are also most welcome



WHITE FOXGLOVES, SELF-SOWN IN A BORDER.

in flower borders and in spaces in shrubberies. The illustration shows some groups of a pure white variety of good habit, self-sown at the edges of some borders, whose proper occupants are for the late summer. Sometimes in gardens a Foxglove will sport into a regrettable malformation, when, instead of the graceful spire, a kind of open cup or inverted bell appears at the top, destroying all the beauty of form and symmetry of the plant. From quite another point of view Foxgloves are just now of special importance, and it is to be hoped

that the leaves of the myriads of wild plants that appear in many copses are being collected for medicinal use. The highly poisonous substance, digitalis, pervades the whole plant, but is prepared from the leaves. The drug is used in cases of heart disease, but requires extremely careful administration.

MONKS' RHUBARB.

Members of the Dock family are usually more dreaded than welcomed in a garden, though there are notable exceptions in the case of our garden Rhubarb, and of Sorrel, so useful and pleasant for summer soups. But a garden is always the better for a few plants of Rumex alpinus, though we do not now put them to any definite economic use. The popular name, Monks' Rhubarb, suggests some utility in ancient medicinal practice; prob-We grow ably some use of the root. it for the sake of the handsome leaves, for it is worthy of use as a foliage plant from the end of May onward, cutting away the flower stem to give more strength to the broad

radical leaves. The leaves themselves are curiously tough and pliable; a leaf may be crumpled in the hand like a pocket-handkerchief; this makes them useful for wrapping up seedling plants, or for packing fruit that is to be kept cool, or any such purpose. Docks, Sorrels and Polygonums are all closely related, and some of them were cultivated long ago as pot herbs.



THE GIANT LEAVES OF MONKS' RHUBARB.

Where they are planted they remain for years, and are said to yield pleasant food in early spring. Herb Patience or Spinach Dock is an old inhabitant of gardens that has run wild in some parts of the country.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Cooking Vegetable Tops.

SIR,—I should be grateful if any of your correspondents could tell me if the leaves of ordinary beetroot can be cooked and used as a vegetable.

Are there any other vegetable tops which can be used? I have no doubt many people would be glad to know that the tops of broad beans, which in any case are taken off to guard against the ravages of blight, make excellent soup and can be served like spinach.—E. G. T.

[Vegetable waste in gardens and kitchens even now is simply appalling and the many ways in which wholesome food is being recklessly wasted are apparently not realised by those in responsible positions. Broad bean tops are certainly excellent if cooked when young and tender in the manner advised by our correspondent. In any case the tops should be removed to give the pods a better chance to develop and, at the same time, to keep down the ravages of the troublesome black fly which always puts in an appearance We have had delicious dishes of broad bean tops this year and regard this as the best of the many war-time vegetable dishes we have tried. It is not generally known that radish tops when cooked are quite as good, if not better, than turnip tops. Again, cooked lettuces are wholesome, although the colour is not in their favour, they should certainly be used this way rather than be allowed to run to seed as they are in so many gardens, but we have never cooked the tops of beetroots except as a mash for poultry, although we have read somewhere that they are quite wholesome for table use. In any nave read somewhere that they are quite wholesome for table use. In any case, it would be quite safe to try them. We have tried the leaves in salad (also carrot tops) in small quantity. They are quite good. Perhaps the greatest waste in garden produce is in the peeling process of potatoes, carrots, onions, parsnips and the like, while many remove the crown of the beetroot which is unquestionably the most delectable portion of the root. Another point to which attention should now be drawn is the great waste in pea pods and broad bean shells. The former, cooked and rubbed through a sieve, make an excellent soup, while the broad bean shells make quite a good dish of distinct flavour from the beans, if sliced and cooked like runner beans after the English manner. The woolly lining should be scraped off and the outer part well washed before cooking.-ED.]

DRYING MINT.

SIR,-I should be greatly obliged if you or any of your readers could give me a method of drying or preserving mint for use as a seasoning. L. E. THOMSON.

[Gather the mint on a dry day and tie up loosely in bundles under cover. A greenhouse makes a good drying place so long as it is not damped down, or any shed where there is a brisk draught will answer equally well. The bundles should be hung on strings or wires until the leaves are dry and withered. The mint may be used in this condition or it may be further dried in a slow oven, after which the leaves may be rolled up in the hands and sifted to clear the dust. It should then be placed in wide-mouthed bottles and corked up securely for use. However carefully it is dried it is never equal to the delicacy of fresh young green shoots now in great demand for cooking with green peas and new potatoes. Moreover, it is quite easy to have fresh mint all through the winter by simply lifting pieces of the root in late autumn or winter and placing them in shallow boxes of soil in the gentle warmth of a heated greenhouse. If this is continued at intervals, a good supply of fresh mint will be maintained, or if a frame is placed over the bed a good quantity could be produced before the mint in the open ground is ready.-Ep.1

LITERATURE

A BOOK OF THE WEEK

ROFESSOR WEEKLEY is dejected about the prospect of completing and publishing the Dictionary of English Surnames on which he has been engaged for many years. He says the end of it, "like that of all similar undertakings, has a way of receding as it is approached," and with a whimsical melancholy laments that "information representing the leisure amusement of several years might be doomed to the waste-paper basket by harassed executors." That would be a very great misfortune. From the studies preparatory to writing the Dictionary Professor Weekley has produced several fascinating books—"The Romance of Words," "The Romance of Names," From the studies preparatory to writing the and now Surnames (John Murray). Almost apologetically he confesses that this volume treats more completely and more ponderously of some groups of surnames which he has investigated, and, further, he is afraid that the book "will be found duller than its predecessor and will, I fear, have little attraction for any but the surname enthusiast." The reader who takes these disparaging remarks too seriously will be agreeably disappointed if in spite of them he proceeds to read the book. From the claims of some writers—we are afraid a huge majority it is always safe to make a deduction of from 25 to 50 per cent., but Professor Weekley belongs to the exceptional few to whose statements, when they regard himself, that percentage may with safety be added. The book is delightful, and the learning with which it is written gives solidity to the pleasure of reading. The making of surnames throws a most curious light on the real history of a people, and unthreading the origin is like working out a problem in chess. threading the origin is like working out a problem in chess. To take an example at random, how difficult it is for the general reader to connect the very common surname Russell

with a horse. But Russell is Roskill and Roskill is Roscytel, a common name in Middle English and the only one formed directly from "horse." The old Teutous had little use for the horse on the salt seas and in the German forests, and the stallion and mare (Hengist and Horsa) on the flags of their Jutish invaders were as strange to them as dragons The Greeks adored the tamer of horses and and griffins. and griffins. The Greeks adored the tamer of horses and formed many names from the animal. Among the Teutons the two kings of the forest were the bear and the boar. Barrett comes from the latter, *viâ* such French names as Beraud and Beroalde. The simplicity of early names is perhaps best exemplified in those that were taken from features of the landscape—Hill, Wood, and Field.

Another very interesting section of the book is that devoted to dialect topography. Compounds are Langabeer, Conybeare, Shillibeer and Shebear. The old-fashioned etymologist would have jumped to the superficial conclusion that the animal was alluded to, whereas Bear, Beer and Bere is the West-country word for wood. The very democratic name Buggins is delightfully traced to a variant of bigging, a building, familiar to readers of Burns and his "auld clay biggin'." Buist is a name that puzzles till one gets the key in the Old Norse word Bustadr, homestead. Buist in the Orkney and Shetlands becomes the very common name Isbister. Hope, Professor Weekley describes as another word of very vague meaning, "an enclosure in marshland," "a small enclosed valley." The Oxford Dictionary defines it as small enclosed valley." The Oxford Dictionary defines it as "a piece of enclosed land, for example, in the midst of fens and marshes, or wastelands generally." It is very common in such compounds as Hopekirk, Hopetoun, Hope-head, Dryhope, Greenhope, Ramshope, Ridlees Hope, St. Margaret's Hope, and so on. Also in Orkney it is very often used for a

settlement which, as far as our memory goes, is invariably at the seaside. In compounds "hope" becomes "ap," "ip," "op" and "up," as in Harrap, Burnip, Alsop and Greenup. In Northumberland the Inch Ordnance Map gives seventy-three places with "hope" as a termination, and in the County of Durham forty occur. Since the time of Smollett, Pickles has been a derisory name, but it assumes a certain dignity when connected with Pightle, an enclosure. Oldmixon, the name of the famous Whig pamphleteer and also of the magistrate in Canning's "Needy Knife Grinder"—" Justice Oldmixon put me in the parish stocks for a vagrant"—is a composer of is a composer of midon or midden—a dungheap.

Among names of deceptive appearance, some very curious examples are given. Thus Caller means a maker of cauls, net-work headdresses. Foister, Foyster, is a variant of Fewster, Fuster, a maker of the wooden frame of saddles. The very common name Pooler or Puller represents poulier or poulter. Latter, a common name in Scotland, appears to mean a lath-maker. Wader has nothing to do with wading, but with woad (Robert le Weyder or le Wodere, Lond. Wills, 1305). Bircher was not an educationist, but a Lond. Wills, 1305). Bircher was not an educationist, but a shepherd, the word used being from the French Berger. Many names are physical in origin. Hair is responsible for many names; for example, Hairlock (often spelt Horlick), Blacklock, Whitlock, Blaylock (an adjective probably meaning ash coloured; it is frequently used in that sense in old Scottish dialect). The eye has been responsible for a host of names; so has the mouth, especially in its French form of Bouch, Buche and Budge. In our time the beard is not of much importance, whereas it occupies an important place in history; witness Bluebeard, Barbarossa, Blackbeard the Pirate, Charlemagne "à la barbe fleurie." Names from wares are extremely amusing. Our early forefathers often nick named a man from his calling, like Pike the fishmonger, Tupp the butcher, Wastal the cook, Duble Harneys the saddler. Professor Weekley calls attention to several interesting

names of public men who are very prominent at the present time. If, for example, Herr von Bethmann-Hollweg were an Englishman, he would be Mr. Bateman-Holloway. Goeben, which is the name of a notorious German battleship and also of a German admiral, is the same as our English Gubbins, both names going back to Gottbrecht. Poincaré means square fist. Two of the French generals, Maud'huy and Maunoury bear ancient nicknames of identical meaning.

Maud'huy is an artificial spelling of the common name Mauduit. William Mauduit was Chamberlain to the Conqueror and founded the Mawditt family. The name is derived from Lat. male doctus, ill taught, by which it is commonly rendered in mediæval documents. Maunoury is from mal-nourri, where nourri has its Old French sense of reared, educated.

Joffre is from Joffroy (Jeffrey); Nietzsche is the diminutive of Neid, envy; Treitschke, goes back to Drudi or Thrudr, death choosers.

The book is one to graze in as well as to study, and everybody who is interested in the curious ways in which our forefathers hit upon a nomenclature will find it interesting and amusing at any moment. But we hope the issue of the little volumes of which this is the third will not prevent Professor Weekley from going on to the completion of his Dictionary. It promises to be a work of the highest importance, not only to etymology, but to history itself.

LITERARY NOTES

DREAMS OF ART AND DAYS OF FIGHTING

WHEN André Chevrillon writes a preface to a book and A. Clutton-Brock an introduction, as they have done to the Letters of a Soldier 1914-1915 (Constable), the reader will not expect in vain to find the contents worthy of his attention. I read the book before glancing at what are practically two reviews of it, and on turning to these afterwards discovered that I had been looking from an altogether different angle. That is far from saying they do not see clearly and write truly. An individual imagination is usually do ated by one aspect of a landscape, another individual equally impressed by a totally different characteristic, while a third may find his thought stirred by a plangent and pathetic beauty which in his mind overpowers all else

THE ARTIST CALLED TO THE COLOURS.

M. Chevrillon supplies the biographical material. A young painter of twenty-seven is called up. He had left school for the studio at thirteen, to be henceforth self-educated. That he had educated himself effectively is seen from the letters full of thought and delicate imaginings conveyed with the skill of a master of prose. To M. Cheyrillon his is the voice of the many young men "who seem to have faced the things of eternity with a deeper insight and a keener feeling as each one, in the full strength of life and youth, dwelt upon the thought of beholding the world for the last time." Such is the central thought though it is emblazoned by picture and detail unending. Perhaps the most pointed is that from a diary of a German soldier killed on the Marne. Amid methodical notes about food and drink, stages on the march, blistered feet, and the number of French villages set on fire, breaks forth the exclamation, "O splendid sun, I wish I could see you again." I shall quote only one more sentence to show how in the particular M. Chevrillon finds

a key to the universal, "Through all unlikenesses, in the hearts of allpeasant, citizen, soldier, German schoolmaster—one prevailing thought is revealed; the living man, passing away, feels, at the approach of eternal night, an exaltation of his sense of the splendour of the world. O miracle night, an exaltation of his sense of the splendour of the world. O miracle of things! O divine peace of this plain, of these trees, of these hillsides!" It would perhaps spoil the reader's pleasure of M. Chevrillon's fine essay were more to be transcribed. At any rate this is enough for the purpose.

THE MORAL DRAWN BY MR. CLUTTON-BROCK.

Mr. Clutton-Brock moralises on all this right bravely. He was surprised the letters. They are French. No Englishman would write them to his by the letters. mother. We admire the French without understanding. "Grant us the power of receptivity, oh Lord—the power of taking in impressions," was the gist of a Scottish prayer reported by a witty Frenchman, smiling at the Minister's solicitude lest the Father of All should not understand a polysyllabic word! It did not occur to me that there was anything absolutely and peculiarly French in these letters. When war broke ansolutely and peculiarly French in these letters. When war broke out in 1914 the memory of 1870 had lain over France like a black shadow for nearly half a century. It cast a deadening spell alike over art and letters. The young men felt that they were citizens of a country that had been beaten, and ever looked forward to war. Did not one of the most brilliant and promising of them rejoice in the prospect of "watering my charger in the Rhine"? No other country has had such a death roll of promising and brilliant poets and painters, nearly all of whom went forth to battle rejoicing and died with shining glad eyes because it was for la Patrie. M. Chevrillon does not claim the letter writer to be a peculiar product of France. It seems to me that understanding of quite another sort is required.

THE SACRIFICE OF THE YOUNG ARTIST.

But consider a young artist wholly engrossed in his art fed with dreams and fired with ambition. In his sanguine and ardent confidence he makes a far greater claim than the majority. The latter are concerned with Time, but he with Eternity; they with Mortality, he with Immortality. It is little to the purpose to say that the vision splendid may never be realised. There would be no great art if the artist did not believe himself to be the man of his age. Splendid in his egoism he cannot believe that he is but meant for cannon-fodder. In this case there was no taste for soldiering, no fervent patriotism, no hatred of the enemy to ameliorate the sacrifice. Yet it was made without hesitation, and we gather from stray hints that duty was zealously performed, so zealously as to win promotion. When the French child is born he becomes a son of the Republic, and although this one was set a distasteful task, he performed it as a son and not as a hireling. Leave out the artistic temperament and a parallel case will be found in the grandson of W. E. Gladstone, who went out to the front and met his death there, although he disliked war and fighting and was entirely unsuited to take part in them. A sense of duty? Well, that may serve for both cases, although the Frenchman had more to give up than the other. Just imagine it! A young man free of political interests, an artist and therefore concentrated only on the pursuit of beauty, forced out of his privacy and seclusion into the life of the trench, the bayonet attack, the war of big guns, the bursting of shells, yet without the sustaining help of military, patriotic or religious fanaticism, going through it all bravely, steadfastly, in the midst of it forging in the heat of war a philosophy of his own.

THE ROCK UPON WHICH HE BUILT.

Says M. Chevrillon: "There are heights upon which beyond the differences of their teachings and their creeds all religious intentions meet together. That is most profoundly true. It is not by way of Marcus Aurelius or of Indian sage, but out of central gloom that our soldier hammered out the consolation which every true and valiant man consciously or unconsciously finds. He who has peace of mind may face anything. It has been the refuge of all the wise, whether they were barbarian emperors, Christian teachers, or Oriental prophets. Wounds and death lose their sting to a Mahommedan, to whom death means an entry into Paradise; to the Christian also when he sings "Labourer rest, thy work is done;" and the philosopher reaches the same height by a different path. Our French soldier found it no unstimulating refuge. It did not deaden him to beauty, but, on the contrary, quickened his appreciation of Nature's lovely pageant as exhibited on the fair fields of France. The abiding charm of the letters rests to a great extent on the vividness with which he describes tree and woodland and star and sun, a vividness arising from a new perception of their glory and

As a postcript I will make a little mention of a little book of verses which has something pertinent to France, although its title, taken from the longest poem, is "Russia Re-born." The author is F. W. Bourdillon; publisher, Arthur L. Humphreys. It contains twelve pieces of which one is "L'Eternelle France," from which the following half dozen lines are quoted à propos of Mr. Clutton-Brock's dictum that "the French had a greater abhorrence of war even than ourselves"

Thy forty years Of vigil and tears Were furnace fires to anneal; And the felon stroke. Foul-falling, broke On thy long-tempered steel.

But my "little mention" is not made to draw a shy and modest poet into an argument. Twenty-seven years ago Mr. Bourdillon published among other things a song which is now part of English literature. It is also sung and loved by musicians. Here it is:

> The night has a thousand eyes And the day but one; Yet the light of the bright world dies With the dying sun. The mind has a thousand eyes And the heart but one; Yet the life of a whole life dies When love is done.

Familiar, you say? Not very long ago an accomplished critic in the Morning Post pointed out the great beauty of the lines and wondered where they came from. That was nothing to the Saturday Review writer, who more recently The new little book is one to be treasured. It contains a few pieces

that already have touched readers of COUNTRY LIFE to the heart, notably

Hide, hide your tears, Ye breaking hearts lest sorrow

Darken their years
Whose is the bright to-morrow.

And the "song of dule and sorrow" which appeared in its appropriate month under the title " April, 1917 " :

Cried the song-bird to the sea-bird, as he neared with weary wing The far-sought cliffs of England: "O Brother, is it Spring? Are the flowers 'neath the hedges? Are the leaves out in the lane, Where I may nurse my nestlings and sing my songs again?'

There is no living poet whose verses sing of themselves so naturally and inevitably as Mr. Bourdillon's and that his most exquisite lyric should be ascribed to the glib and fluent Ella Wheeler Wilcox, or his name altogether ascribed to the god and ment and white the century criticism of poctry forgotten throws a curious light on twentieth century criticism of poctry

THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF ISAIAH.

THE delicate, imaginative beauty of Miss Isabel Butchart's article, "Like Dew in Harvest Time," published in our Summer Number, has set one reader, whose early childhood was spent in Palestine, delightfully dreaming of the past. All lovers of literature must, of course, like Miss Butchart, wonder and rejoice at the perfect felicity with which the translators of the Bible into English did their work; but there is one great difference between the attitude of Isaiah and the attitude of any English poet towards water that perhaps only those who have lived in the East appreciate fully, and it is one that increases the sense of happy amazement in the success of those old English increases the sense of nappy amazement in the success of those old English translators. For the English poet, singing of the abundant waters of his "green and pleasant land," sees their beauty and their poetry and even their beneficence; but Isaiah, loving to draw his images from rivers and wells, from pools and springs, and brooks and watered gardens, so that through all his pages "in the wilderness waters break out, and streams in the desert," sees also very literally the water of life, the thing so scarce as to be more costly than bread; and it is this that gives the peculiar poignancy of beauty to his images for those who know the land that gave them birth—this, too, that makes him, even more than Western poets, dwell

them birth—this, too, that makes him, even more than western poets, dwell on the transitoriness of Jeaf and flower and life, for his spring was a spring that is born, blazes to magic loveliness and dies—all in six weeks.

To the present writer most of the passages quoted by Miss Butchart, as well as many others, are bound up inseparably with intimate, personal experience; they are the Bible, that is to say, but they are also home. For instance, "He turneth the . . . dry ground into watersprings" brings a vision of the brook Kidron when, after long months of drought, one spring a vision of the brook Kiaron when, after long months of drought, one spring morning its waters were found (to the delight of dabbling youth) to have bubbled up once more from their mysterious source beneath the stones. "The desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose" is not any desert and any roses, but, in overpowering wealth of colour and scent, the brief glory of the actual Valley of The Roses on the way from Jerusalem to Bethleten, with a poem in its very name. "The shadows of a great rock in a weary land" is a particular rock seen afar on a burning plain at midday by a child too tired from long walking to reach it. An exceptionally lengthy dry season, too tired from long walking to reach it. An exceptionally lengthy dry season, when wells were empty and water-carriers brought the precious liquid in skins on their backs from the nearest spring, three miles distant, gives the gesture of royal generosity to "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." A picnic-party caught by the rains, and a child sheltered in a tent and plied with novel sweetmeats by hospitable Turkish ladies, while outside the heavens opened and bucketed torrents of rain on to the parched, iron-hard earth that for a while could not absorb it, is "the wilderness a pool of water." A gazelle, venturing in its extremity of thirst on to the play-ground of a school, throwing one look of appeal out of beautiful, agonised eyes, and then in terror fleeing back to the waterless wastes, gives to this day an almost unbearable vividness to the words "as the hart panteth after the water brooks." And so on. And so on.

But to the translators of the Bible the land of the Bible was not home. They had only imaginative acquaintance with "a dry and thirsty land, where no water is." How, then, in a world where to translate is to mutilate, did they find for such alien experiences words so few and fit? One is driven, in very bewilderment and gratitude and awe, upon yet another of the grave, nobly simple phrases fashioned by the same minds: "This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes."

V. H. FRIEDLAENDER.

TIMBER FOR AEROPLANES

BY A D. WEBSTER.

N the making of British aeroplanes two kinds of timber are generally employed, that of our common ash (Fraxinus excelsior) and the sitka or silver spruce (Picea sitchensis). In the construction of aeroplanes, as indeed for more other indeed for more other indeed for more other indeed. as, indeed, for many other important purposes, no ash timber equals that of home growth, and for this reason, as well as its comparative scarcity, the

price has gone by leaps and bounds during the past three years. Previous to the war very fine ash timber could be got at from 1s. Ed. to 2s. per cubic foot, but as much as 12s. 6d. is being paid by aeroplane firms in the metropolis for the best ash cuts that are suitable for their special work in the manufacture of aircraft, with a proviso that all un-suitable legs are to be returned to the

The accompanying illustrations will give an idea of the general appearance of the timbers that are being made use of so largely for aeroplanes, and it may be of interest to state that the specimens of wood from which the blocks were prepared formed part of a consignment of planks that have been used in the making of a particular type of aeroplane.

The ash timber was grown at Stratford, and, as will be seen, is particularly close and long-grained.

The sitka or silver spruce is a tree of noble growth in several parts of England, some specimens being well over 100ft. in height, with boles that girth fully 10ft. at 1yd. from the ground, these dimensions, in one case at least, being attained in seventy-five years.

Probably the largest sitka spruce in this country is that at Stanage Park, which is 124ft. high and 12ft. in girth at 4½ft. from the ground. There are other large trees at Highelere and at Penrhyn Castle, while one at Castle Menzies, in Scotland, is fully 100ft. in height.

The timber is remarkably light for its bulk, strong and flexible and fine of texture, about six annual rings going to the inch. It delights in a cool, moist loam. In the timber trade it is known as "clear spruce" and "silver spruce," but it must not be confused with the timber of our silver fir, which not only belongs to a different genus, but is altogether an inferior timber-producing tree. For afforesting purposes the ash and sitka spruce should not be lost sight of in the near future.



BRITISH ASH FOR AEROPLANES.



SITKA OR SILVER SPRUCE FOR AEROPLANES.

CORRESPONDENCE

CANADA'S JUBILEE.

[To the Editor of "Country Life."]

Sir,—You may like to publish the enclosed photograph showing the monument SIR,—You may like to publish the enclosed photograph showing the module to General Wolfe in Westminster Abbey decorated with the flags of the that monument!" said the Dean in the noble and impressive service. "It is now draped in the folds of banners which Canad'an battalions, many of



COLOURS OF CANADIAN REGIMENTS MONUMENT IN WESTMINSTER ON WOLFE'S ABBEY

them at the front, have left in the keeping of the Abbey." When the King and Queen visited the shrine on Monday the scene was most impressive.— D. W

PLOUGHLAND AND PASTURE.
[To the Editor of "Country Life."

SIR,—Is it too late to venture a few remarks on the article in your issue of June 9th on "Ploughland and Pasture"? My contention is that the programme outlined in the Board of Agriculture Supplement, mentioned in this article, may encourage the breaking up of pasture for the growth of cereals for the following reasons: First, a good many farmers might have been, perhaps, justifiably nervous about ploughing up even somewhat poor pastures unless they had in some easily accessible form reliable information as to the best methods by which these could later on be laid down again. The Supplement gave such information. Secondly, in many localities there is siderable risk of a cereal crop failing if sown on old pastures newly ploughed up. The results of Mr. Stapledon's experiments go to show that when clovers and grasses are sown with a cereal crop on such old pastures they may make up the loss caused by the failure of the cereals. That fact again may prove an inducement to farmers to take a risk which they might otherwise be unwilling to face. These considerations are not everywhere applicable, but on the other hand it seems probable that the general effect of Mr. Stapledon's experiments would be to encourage the ploughing up of old and comparatively worthless pastures. I can at least testify that this has happened in my own case. It is important that the exhortation to plough up more land should be followed willingly, and with understanding, rather than merely in blind obedience to the decrees of superior authority. -STANLEY M. BLIGH.

"GOAT-KEEPING IN WAR TIME."

[To the Editor of "Country Life."]

SIR,—I recently purchased the above book and consider it a very useful publication. I have received one or two enquiries as to whether it is possible to make cheese from goat's milk like the Gruyère cheese which is produced in Norway and Switzerland, and some parts of France, Germany and Italy. Will you kindly let me have any information you can on this subject, and give me, if you possibly can, the full recipe for making Gruyère cheese from goat's milk? I have, of course, read in the above book the description of making soft cheese of small size, and on page 25 I see that soft cheese can be made from goat's milk. I want a recipe for a small type of Gruyère which was made before the war and was sold in this country, a flat cheese about 15in. to 18in. in diameter. It is too large for an ordinary consumer. Grocers accordingly cut pieces out of it for their customers, and the consequence was the cheese ne very dry and hard before it was used, and not at all like the Gruyère

served to one in a first-class London restaurant. I have been told by lady served to one in a inst-class London restaurant. I have been told by lady lecturers, who deal with dairy matters for several County Councils, that the making of Gruyère cheese is not known in this country. The Swiss peasantry, who excel in the making of this type of cheese, possess several secrets as to the making and manipulating of this kind of cheese and the Swiss Government have not given any facilities for the acquisition of these secrets. that to make the cheese successfully one must have a herd of goats because it requires a large amount of milk. I have also been told that the large air-holes in the cheese are obtained by blowing air from the dairymaid's lungs through a straw into the material of which the cheese is made up. I am told that this is the only way in which the air is passed into the cheese in Switzerland, and the practice is certainly not advisable because it is not cleanly, and yet by no other means can the air be introduced into the curds. I know nothing at all about the subject of cheese-making, and I have only passed on this information for what it is worth.—L. T.

[We have consulted Mr. C. J. Davies, the author of "Goat Keeping in War Time," whose reply is as follows: "Gruyère cheese is made from cow's milk and no goat's milk enters into its composition. The best known (hard) goat's milk cheeses are Mont d'Or, Levroux and Sassenage, while the famous Roquefort cheese is often composed of a mixture of ewe's and goat's milk. I believe there is a Swiss breed of goat, called the Gruyère, which no doubt, in common with the cheese, takes its name from the town or district, but that is, as far as I know, the extent of the connection. The making of Gruyère cheese from cow's milk is described in Stephen's "Book of the Farm," and no doubt many other books on dairying. As hard cheeses cannot be made without a press and other appliances, the expense of which is hardly justified by the small amount of goat's milk usually, available in this country, cheese making is not generally considered by the best English authorities to be either practical or economical. Moreover, the milk is so valuable for children and so much better used in a fresh state that most people of experience consider it wasteful to turn good milk into indifferent butter or cheese—which is what it usually amounts to in practice. It is usually estimated that 2‡lb. of goat's milk will yield rather over 40z. cheese. I have not given a recipe for hard cheese as I understand that only that for Gruyère is wanted, but I can give the French methods of making some of the hard cheeses mentioned if required."— $E_{D_{\rm c}}$

THE AMERICAN NUMBER OF "COUNTRY LIFE."
[To the Editor of "Country Life."]
Sir,—I am much struck with the beauty of your American Number and

the excellence and correctness of the articles which it contains, I am writing to enclose a photograph of one of the skyscrapers in Chicago belonging to my brothers and myself which you may think worthy to be included in one of -HENRIETTA McCormick-Goodhart.



THE MCCORMICK BUILDING, CHICAGO

A FAMOUS OAK IN SOMERSET. [To the Editor of "Country Life."]

SIR,-In the early hours of Sunday morning a portion of the famous old oak at Hock Pitt, Over Stowey, fell in a most unaccountable manner, as there was no wind at the time. Strange that a tree which had resisted every storm for a century and a half should come to grief in a calm! There was no indication of it having been struck by lightning, although there had been lightning during the night, and the only cause to which one can attribute it is that a huge limb, of tons in weight, gave way with the heavi-



UNDER COVER OF FRAME BEEHIVE.

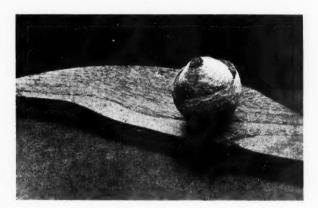
in the West of England, was associated with Tom Poole, associated with 16th Poole, at that time the owner, and his friends, the poets Cole-ridge, who lived near by at Nether Stowey, and Wordsworth, in the adjoining parish of Holford. But, obviously, at that day its dimensions were too insignificant to receive attention at the pen of Poole's visitors, or early mention of its great promise would probably have been Although several incidents in the life of Tom Poole are mentioned, nothing is said of the oak, and those who can remember it for fifty years recognise that a great portion of its growth has been made during that time, indicating it to be still in its prime, and making the falling of the branches the more remarkable. GEORGE E. LANSDOWNE.

AN "INTRUDER" IN A BEEHIVE.

[TO THE EDITOR.]

SIR, -The accompanying photographs are of wasps' nests found recently in a garden in the Selby district. One was discovered inside a barrel which was inverted over rhubarb, and the other on the under side of the cover

of a frame beehive. Apparently the bees did not resent the presence of the "intruder." Twelve cells containing larvæ, half of that number showing activity, have been observed in the nest from the hive. The method of attachment to the support differs; the first adheres to the wood in a circle of a diameter equal to one third of that of the nest, the second was secured



INSIDE AN OVERTURNED BARREL.

by a knife-edge only. Both nests were suspended with the opening towards

"WAR-TIME CAKES."

[To the Editor of "Country Life."]

SIR,—In answer to your correspondent's question as to the reason why her cakes made with flour substitutes (maize, rice, barley and haricot beans) are so wastefully inclined to crumble, may I tell her that there are at least three probable causes of this? The first is overbaking, the second too much fat (it should never exceed a proportion of half a pound to a pound of flour substitute for these cakes), the third too little liquid used in mixing. I have had considerable experience with regard to flour substitutes and find that few people seem to realise how much success in using them depends upon the slackness of the mixture. A pint of fluid to every two pounds of dry ingredients, not including fruit, is not too much, and more, in some cases, may be used with advantage —DIPLOMEE.

A PLANT CURIOSITY

[To the Editor of "Country Life."]

Sir,—Attention has been recently called to a very singular fact in connection with the scarlet runner bean. As far as can be discovered, the point has

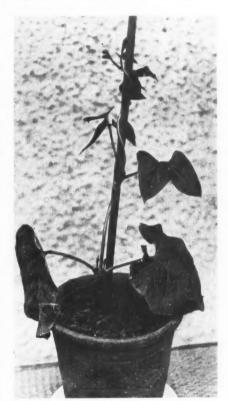
been entirely overlooked by botanical writers. In most books it is stated that the twining plants always move their stems in one direction and never vary at all. Darwin mentions only one exception, in the case of an Australian plant. Thus the hop is said always to twist towards the right, the scarlet runner bean to the left. In the case of the scarlet runner bean this has been shown to be a wrong conception. In a gar-den at Pasadena, California, it was first of all observed that the direction of growth varies according to the season of the year. In this favoured climate the seeds of runner beans are sown quite early in the year, before the spring equinox, which occurs on March 21st. It is seen that before this date the stems of the beans grow



THE USUAL GROWTH OF BEAN AND HOP.

towards the right, that is, the reverse of the direction which they have been stated always to take. After the passage of the equinox the stems straighten out and finally grow in an opposite direction, that is, towards the left. A very interesting experiment has been carried out by Mr. H. Hoddinott in sowing runner beans under glass in the autumn. In the illustration is shown

a plant the seed of which was sown on September 11th. By the time the bean started its twisting the autumnal equinox was past and the shoot turned towards the right, or exactly the opposite direction to that in which the same kinds of beans had been growing all the summer. Last season the writer closely watched some runner beans in his garden to see whether after the autumnal equinox the plants altered manner of their growth in any way. September After 23rd the top shoot of a plant under observation first of all straightened out and then turned in an opposite direc-Unfortution. nately, just at this time the weather changed and became cold and stormy, so that all the summer plants of the garden practically ceased growth. There is no doubt



AFTER THE AUTUMNAL BEAN EQUINOX.

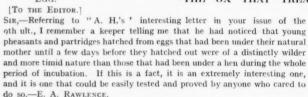
that the runner bean under notice was reversing its method of growth. A better opportunity to see really just what happens may quite possibly occur this autumn. The writer would be very glad to receive any details of the behaviour of runner beans after September 23rd.—S. Leonard Bastin.

COUNT MC

NATIVE THRESH-ING FLOOR, RHODA ISLAND, CAIRO

[TO THE EDITOR.] Sir,—Perhaps this picture of Egyptian threshing operations may be a little out of the beaten track. The oxen pull heavy sledge with knives underneath it; these cut the straw into fine chaff or "tibu," which is then winnowed by being thrown up with a shovel in the wind.—W. D.







[To the Editor of "Country Life."]

Sir,—I enclose three photographs, which I hope you may think of sufficient interest to publish. The iceberg was encountered on patrol in a latitude



UNBENDING AFTER AN ANXIOUS PATROL.

and longitude which I had better not specify. The other seascape is a photograph of the midnight sun, and was taken just after midnight.



"THE OX THAT TREADETH OUT THE CORN."

The third shows some boys amusing them-selves with spar-fighting to beguile the tedium of life afloat, waiting for the Hun. All three were taken in one of H.M. ships—one of the many which are anonymously putting in some very tedious work at sea.—Philip A. MARTIN, (late) Sub-Lieutenant R.N.V.R.

" A RICHARD IEFFERIES OF THE CAMERA." [TO THE EDITOR.] SIR,—This portrait of the late James Howard Symonds

will be of interest to all who appreciated the marvel of his work, a few examples of which appeared in your issue of June 30th, under the title "A Richard Jefferies of the Camera."



JAMES HOWARD SYMONDS.

He had made a great name for himself, and would inevitably have made a greater had his not been one of the many promising lives paid down as the terrible price of the future of hum nity .- H. P.

JAM MAKING WITH GLUCOSE.

[To the Editor of "Country Life."]

SIR,—I should be so grateful if you could inform me in your valuable paper, COUNTRY LIFE, how best to use glucose instead of sugar in making jam.—

LILY V. CAILLARD.

[Jam may be made either with glucose alone in the proportions of 4lb. of fruit to 4½lb. of liquid glucose, or with only 2½lb. of glucose and 2lb. of sugar. The method of using it is to boil fruit and sugar three-quarters of an hour, add the glucose, stir well and put up in pots. It may be useful to add that corn syrup is glucose and sugar.-Ep.]



ICE, MAST HIGH.



THE MIDNIGHT SUN.